MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 APRIL 1981

AWACS To Saudi Arabia

Israeli Reaction--A government press office release, carried by ITIM, expressed Israel's "deep regret and unreserved opposition" to the U.S. administration's decision to supply advanced arms and AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia. Noting that Saudi Arabia rejects the Camp David agreements and peace with and recognition of Israel, the statement said the supply of sophisticated offensive arms to the Saudis will undermine peace in the region and constitute a grave danger to Israel's security. IDF radio reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin reiterated Israel's opposition to the arms deal during a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis. According to Jerusalem radio, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel will do everything possible to prevent the deal from going through. Jerusalem television reported that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres also criticized the planned sale as a danger to the peace process and to regional security. He added that those who think the electoral period in Israel may be expolited for the purposes of the sale are deluding themselves. According to Jerusalem radio, the Alignment faction has collected the signatures of enough Knesset members to convene a special Knesset session next week at which the planned sale will be discussed.

Saudi Comment--In a commentary on the U.S. administration's decision on the arms sale, Riyadh radio said that such favorable responses to Saudi Arabia plays an important role in shaping world events. The country's friends realize, it said, that the best way to strengthen Saudi self-defense is to strengthen its self-reliance, rather than by providing "outside support," which may have harmful psychological effects that serve no one. Citing Defense Minister Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz the commentary stressed that Saudi Arabia is helping maintain regional and international stability and does not intend to attack others or to use its military or economic capabilities to harm or pressure anyone.

Gulf Affairs

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid has told British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that the UAE will buy an unspecified number of British Hawk trainer aircraft, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported. According to the GULF NEWS AGENCY, Thatcher held talks with Shaykh Khalifah and other UAE officials during her visit to Abu Dhabi. Later QNA reports said that after visiting Dubayy Thatcher arrived in Muscat for talks with Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

Lebanon

Military Situation--According to reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios, violent clashes resumed in Beirut on 22 April, continuing until President Ilyas Sarkis issued a cease-fire order early in the evening. Beirut radio said that intermittent firing continued after the cease-fire order was issued but that the city was calm by 23 April. In the south Israeli and Christian militia forces continued shelling throughout the night of 21-22 April, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported. Beirut radio said the shelling resumed for more than 2 hours the next morning, hitting An-Nabatiyah and several villages. The radio later said Yatir came under artillery fire after a UNIFIL contingent there had opened fire on an Israeli commando unit trying to cross the border, forcing it to withdraw. Artillery exchanges between Marj 'Uyun and An-Nabatiyah continued at night, Voice of Lebanon reported. According to Beirut radio, Israeli gunboats shelled the port of Tyre on 23 April. Jerusalem radio said IDF forces sank "terrorist" vessels off the coast of Tyre and Sidon during the night. Voice of Lebanon radio continued to report Syrian shelling of residential areas of Zahlah. It also claimed that Syrian troops in the Zahlah area are being reinforced.

Other Developments--Citing Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich, Jerusalem radio reported that over the last few days a senior Israeli ministerial team headed by Prime Minister Begin has decided that Israel should help the southern Lebanese Christians to "help themselves" but should not allow itself to become involved in a war with Syria for their sake. The Voice of Hope radio reported that southern Lebanese Christian militia leader Maj Sa'd Haddad, who was hospitalized in Haifa several days ago, has left the hospital and will meet with Prime Minister Begin to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon. According to the Voice of Palestine, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat met with UNIFIL commander Gen Willian Callaghan to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon and relations between the Palestinian joint forces and UNIFIL. The PLO General Mobilization Commission issued a statement broadcast by the Voice of Palestine radio announcing a general mobilization law to defend the Palestinian revolution against the "imperialist-Zionist" scheme to liquidate it in Lebanon. The law calls on all Palestinan males aged 16 to 49, with certain specified exceptions, to report to Palestine Liberation Army centers in Lebanon between 1 May and 30 June.

Syria-Iraq

Citing the Syrian daily AL-BA'TH, SANA reported that Maj Gen Isma'il Tayih an-Nu'aymi, commander of the Iraqi Armed Forces along the front with Iran, was executed after a "violent disagreement" with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The paper also alleged that several other Iraqi military commanders have been executed for refusing to obey orders and that over the past 2 months more than 900 Iraqi citizens have died in a campaign of executions.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi General Command communique, broadcast by Baghdad radio's international service, reported heavy fighting in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region with Iraqi planes strafing Iranian troop concentrations. Tehran radio's English service reported that Iranian forces captured an important strategic height in the western front, killing 300 Iraqis and capturing 380. According to other Tehran radio reports, Iranian antiaircraft fire downed an Iraqi aircraft over Bushehr while an air force fighter shot down an Iraqi MiG near Ahvaz.

Iran

Tehran Explosion--Tehran radio reported that a powerful bomb exploded in a vehicle parked near Niavaran Palace, a former residence of the late shah situated in northern Tehran. Two people were killed and 10 hospitalized as a result of the blast.

Newspapers on Unrest--According to AFP, Iranian newspapers have reported a number of recent disturbances in which Mojahedin-e Khalq supporters clashed with religious fundamentalists. KEYHAN reported that about 40 persons were injured and 20 arrested during extensive clashes in Armol, near the Caspian Sea, while JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said Mojahedin-e Khalq supporters attacked Islamic Republican Party offices in Hamadan, Esfahan and Mashhad.

Three-Man Committee--Tehran radio reported that Mohammad Yazdi, member of the three-man committee investigating disputes among Iran's top officials, announced that the committee upholds the right of the Foreign Affairs Ministry to issue foreign policy statements without clearance from the Supreme Defense Council. Yazdi said any criticism of the recent Foreign Ministry statement attacking Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti is a matter for the Majlis, not the Supreme Defense Council. He also said the press has no right to discuss such matters before they have been referred to the lawful authorities. Yazdi's statement follows previously reported public criticism of the Foreign Ministry statement by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PALESTINIAN GENERAL MOBILIZATION ANNOUNCED

JN221732 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1633 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] The General Mobilization Commission of the PLO issued the following statement today:

To all our Palestinian masses: The Arab area is now witnessing a serious move whose negative aspects reflect on the Palestinian revolution. The barbaric aggressions to which our Lebanese and Palestinian people in southern Lebanon are being subjected and the isolationists moves throughout Lebanon to explode the security situation in the area pour into the imperialist-Zionist scheme which aims at liquidating the Palestinian revolution. As Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stated, the Palestinian revolution is not the march of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation alone but is also the march of all free men in the world.

The decision for general mobilization is to show our cohesion with our steadfast people in the occupied homeland and to defend the gun, which represents the revolution. The following is the law for summoning draftees for general mobilization:

I. The law of summoning the militias of the Palestinian factions and the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA]

A. The general mobilization commission has issued orders to the various competent parties.

II. The law of summoning the masses of the Palestinian people who are not affiliated to the Palestinian factions.

A. This law covers all males whose ages range from 16 to 49.
B. The period of summoning will be from 1 May to 30 June 1981. This also applies to the Palestinian factions.

III. All men of our Palestinian masses must report to the following PLA centers: in the Beirut area, to the militia command; in the southern Lebanese area, to Ayn al-Hulwah and Sidon; in the Al-Biqa area, to the Al-Biqa refugee camps; in the northern area, to the areas that will be set by the army. Instruction on the date of assembly, to be based on age, will be issued later at the Palestinian armed struggle centers.

IV. Those exempted from the law.

A. The only son of a family.
B. Those who are medically unfit and those who are permanently handicapped.
C. Those who are under 16 and above 49 years of age.
D. Students in the preparatory and secondary schools and university students. School employees are considered as reserves and their summoning will be postponed until 1 July 1981.
E. Doctors, nurses, pharmacists and bakery workers who are working in their professions.

All those to whom the above conditions apply must report to the Palestinian armed struggle centers in their areas to obtain an application for exemption.

F. Information on all instructions in this matter can be obtained at the Palestinian factions, the PLA, the High Political Committee, the armed struggle centers and the popular committees.

[Signed] The General Mobilization Commission of the PLO

AFP REPORTS 'CONSIDERABLE' OIL PRODUCTION CUTS

NC191555 Paris AFP in English 1504 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Apr (AFP)--The United Arab Emirates have cut crude production by 80,000 barrels a day, compared to average output firgures for last year, a report from the Emirate's Oil Department said today. The disclosure about the extent of the reduction came as oil producers generally are facing an oil glut and as nations not belonging to the Organization of Pertroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were reported to have increased production last year. The report said that the Emirates cut output at their Abu Dhabi oil field twice last year. The reductions were ordered as part of a program to conserve national wealth, the report said. It added that output last year averaged 1,354,000 barrels a day, while daily production was put at 1,274,000 barrels early this year.

An oil industry source here said that oil-consuming countries have adopted a tough stand toward producing countries, especially on the premimums that the oil countries have been adding to their normal prices.

Some observers believe that talks now underway between Western Europe and Japan, on one hand, and Kuwait and Qatar, on the other, for delivery of an additional 350,000 barrels, will be a test of strength.

The Emirates' Oil Department put total crude production last year at about 493,200,000 barrels. Low output levels earlier this year were in line with daily crude production of 24.7 million barrels by all OPEC countries--the lowest level in several years. These cuts were intended to counter the current oil glut.

Kuwait cut production by 23.5 percent, Nigeria by 10.7 percent, and Venezuela by eight percent during 1980. Drops in Libyan and Syrian crude output were also considerable.

While the world's daily oil production was generally down to 57.8 million dollars a day during this period, Saudi Arabia has increased its production since the end of 1980, from 9.5 million barrels a day to 10.3 million barrels.

Meanwhile, a report from the American publication PETROLEUM INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY said that oil production by non-OPEC countries rose 3.6 percent, to reach 18.3 million barrels a day.

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE TO MEET IN VIENNA 4 MAY

JN151811 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Apr 81

[Text] Iraq will participate in the OPEC Economic Committee meetings to be held in Vienna on 4 May.

The committee will discuss matters related to the world oil market and the economic changes affecting it. It will also discuss the reports submitted by the OPEC technical committee.

The committee will then submit its decisions and recommendations to the OPEC Ministerial meeting in Geneva on 25 May.

VENEZUELA, ECUADOR REACT TO SAUDI PRICING PROPOSAL

Venezuelan Support

PA210210 Paris AFP in Spanish 2154 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Caracas, 20 Apr (AFP)--It was officially learned today that Venezuela supports Saudi Arabia's proposal to unify OPEC crude prices. Humberto Calderon Berti, Venezuelan energy and mines minister, considered Saudi Arabia's proposal "healthy." Calderon Berti said that "some OPEC members raised their prices a little too high after OPEC's meeting in 1980 in Bali, Indonesia, and now they have had to reduce them." "Venezuela has not had any problems with its prices because we have adopted OPEC's decisions," Calderon Berti added. Venezuela's current prices for its light crude API [American Petroleum Institute] grade 34 is $35 per barrel, Calderon Berti said.

The world's oil supply has increased because industrialized countries have reduced their consumption and are using other sources of energy and implementing an austerity policy in this field. The international market was also overflowing with crude by the end of 1980. Venezuelan oil experts have indicated that winter in the northern hemisphere is over--particularly in the United States and Europe--and that consumption of crude will continue on a downward curve for the time being.

In relation to reports of Iranian gasoline imports, Calderon Berti said, "That is not news since there have been problems in that oil region since last 28 September, when the Iranian-Iraqi war brok out." "We must not forget that the oil refinery in Abadan, the most important in Iran, was virtually destroyed by Iraqi air raids." Calderon Berti indicated.

Ecuadorean Rejection

PA2?1400 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0431 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Quito, 21 Apr (EFE)--Cesar Robalino, Ecuador's natural resources and energy minister, said today that he does not think it is wise to decrease the price of oil in the international market. This was his reaction to recent statements by Saudi Arabian Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Zaki Ahmad Yamani on the possibility of establishing a single OPEC oil price as a way of dealing with the surplus of the product.

Robalino has told EFE that Ecuador, a modest OPEC member, respects the Saudi Arabian point of view but does not share it. He said his country will reiterate its position in favor of a long-term price policy, that should start with the $36 per barrel minimum, at the OPEC ministers' conference scheduled for May. The minister noted that that meeting will be "very arduous and difficult" because of existing circumstances. The minister even mentioned the possibility that no agreement may be reached.

Robalino, however, discarded the possibility of OPEC breaking up. He noted that OPEC has gone through difficult moments in the past and has survived. I hope, he said, that in Geneva, the big producers such as Saudi Arabia will understand the difficult economic situation being faced by small producers due to a reduction in oil prices.

Regarding the specific case of Ecuador, the minister said that it found itself forced to reduce oil prices from the $40-per-barrel price in effect in January, to the $35 of the past few weeks. He cautioned that if the difficulties continue, Ecuador could sell its oil at lower prices. Another alternative of the Ecuadorean Government could be a reduction in the present production of 210,000 barrels daily.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR MOSCOW 23 APR

LD230942 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Apr (KUNA)--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today left for Moscow leading a high-powered delegation on a first visit by a senior Kuwaiti official for several years to the Soviet Union.

Prior to his departure Shaykh Sabah told newsmen that he will be having talks with Soviet officials regarding bilateral relations, the situation in the Gulf, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the crisis in Afghanistan.

He declared Kuwait's welcome of the proposals made by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to neutralize the Gulf area and remove all foreign bases from it. He said: We were the first to welcome these proposals to keep the region out of international disputes. He added that Kuwait also demands the neutralization of all areas neighboring the Gulf so that they, too, will be kept out of international disputes. The Kuwaiti minister said: I am leaving today for Moscow carrying with me all the many concerns felt by the region--bilateral relations, the Middle East problems, the situation in Afghanistan and the Arab Gulf. He declared that he was carrying a verbal message from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, to President Brezhnev.

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that he would be extremely frank in his talks with the Soviet officials, and expressed the hope that they would listen to the Kuwaiti views.

He added that he would be explaining to the Soviets the aims of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which was recently set up by six Arab Gulf states, and that he would assure them that this council is not aimed against anyone.

He added that his visit to Moscow was not being undertaken at the request of the member countries of the council--Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman--although the visit was desired by all countries in the region. In reply to questions from journalists he pointed out that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces have Soviet weapons, and said that it would not be surprising to see an increase in the Kuwaiti Armed Forces' effectiveness in terms of Soviet weapons. But he added that this subject is a military matter and is discussed by the military.

The delegation accompanying the Kuwaiti minister includes military experts, as well as political and economic officials.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES $2 BILLION LOAN TO IRAQ

LD211508 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Apr (KUNA)--The National Assembly today approved a bill submitted by the government regarding the granting of a loan to the Iraqi Republic. The assembly approved the bill during a closed session lasting 2 hours, interrupted by a short recess. At the end of the closed session the meeting was declared open again when the Speaker Mohammad Yusuf ar-Adsani announced that the assembly has approved the bill and referred it back to the government. Sources at the assembly said the loan is for $2 billion.

The assembly began its open session at 1030. At 1130 the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah as-Sabah asked for a closed session to debate the bill submitted by the government to grant the loan to Iraq. The speaker asked nonmembers to leave the chamber.

SAUDI ARABIA

MEDIA COMMENT ON ARMS DEALS WITH U.S., BRITAIN

Riyadh Commentary

LD221426 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Hashim Abd Hashim Commentary]

[Text] The White House announcement that the U.S. Government intends to implement the agreement with the Government of Saudi Arabia regarding the purchase of five early warning aircraft--AWACS--and some additional equipment to raise the efficiency of Saudi Arabia's F-15 aircraft is not a coincidence. It is not surprising that the official U.S. announcement coincided with the announcement by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that her country is prepared to meet the kingdom's requests for arms. This is because there are basic, common principles which both these countries support in reaffirming their commitment to the deals they have concluded with the kingdom.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not an ordinary country whose requests can be ignored by the superpowers, nor can these superpowers bow to the pressures which are usually exerted on them with regard to any arms deals they conclude with the kingdom. The kingdom is not an isolated country which has no effect on the stability and safety of the international community. Favorable responses to our requests basically stem from the awareness of the two friendly states--the United States and Britain--of the important role which the kingdom plays in shaping events. Moreover, they are convinced of the soundness of the purpose behind our requests since we are a Muslim country with ethnics and traditions and one which shoulders its extraordinary responsibilities and duties. How can a country such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia protect itself and continue to meet these responsibilities if it is incapable of confronting the many dangers and challenges threatening it?

If the kingdom has succeeded in its long struggle against international Zionism by convincing friends in the United States, and by communicating and explaining its views to friends in Britain and other countries, it is because it has always realized what it wanted. It has always taken all the circumstances that surround it into account and has been aware, more than others, of all the means it can resort to in order to face all circumstances. Fortunately, the clear desire to ascertain and understand facts has permitted all our friends to realize with us that the capability for self-defense is possible by strengthening self-reliance and not by providing outside support, which is often late and which may have psychological and legal effects leading to the creation of a suspect situation which serves neither party.

This means that the language of dialogue which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia resorts to with its friends has proved its effectiveness and usefulness and that the desire to ascertain facts creates better conditions of total understanding and readiness to exchange views and arrive at specific results. His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the minister of defense and aviation, has said, this country, while striving to build its strength--which is a duty dictated by its responsibilities--is manitaning security and stability in the region, in fact in the whole world. Our country does not strive to attack anybody and does not attempt, through its position, to use its military capabilities or economic means to harm anybody or to bring pressure to bear on anybody. We only want to be strong and [passage indistinct]. We are an element of peace and stability, and shall remain as such, God willing, forever.

AL-JAZIRAH View

LD230810 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0505 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Apr (SPA)--Commenting on the U.S. arms deal with the kingdom, AL-JAZIRAH calls for preparedness to confront any Zionist move on the diplomatic and propaganda fronts following the U.S. administration's decision to supply the kingdom with AWACS and necessary equipment for the F-15 aircraft and the announcement by British Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher regarding her country's willingness to supply Saudi Arabia with weapons.

The paper says that we expect intensive and feverish moves by the Israeli Zionists using the old pretext of a threat to Israel's security. We should expose this allegation and inform world public opinion that it is designed to further Israel's hostile intentions and expansionist aims in the region by helping it monopolize sophisticated weaponry in the Middle East.

The paper expresses its pleasure with the attitudes of the United States, Britain and the FRG toward the arming of the kingdom and says that Saudi Arabia did not force these countries to supply it with weapons. AL-JAZIRAH says that it is not within the ethics of the kingdom to put its friends to critical tests. It does not ask its friends for the impossible or for what is beyond their capabilities.

'UKAZ Opinion

LD230812 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0535 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Apr (SPA)--The Saudi paper 'UKAZ has condemned the Soviet Union's attitude in relation to U.S. decision to supply the kingdom with AWACS and additional equipment for the F-15 aircraft. It said: At last the Soviet Union has spoken after maintaining its silence for a long time. The Soviet news agency TASS has alleged that the U.S. decision to supply the weapons to the kingdom is a threat to peace in the region. The paper said that this has taken place at a time when the Soviet Union has not uttered a word about U.S. supplies of arms to the Zionist octopus. The Soviet Union has not stopped supplying Israel with manpower, which is far more dangerous than weapons, so that these Soviet Jews will use the U.S. weapons to perpetuate Israeli occupation of Arab land and for the Judaization of the Arab areas and the building of settlements, as well as for the killing children, men and women--the sons of Palestine.

'UKAZ described the tone of language used by Moscow as not being different from that used by the Zionist enemy or the Zionist lobby in the United States. The paper said that every Arab realizes that Moscow's hope is to see the Arab region weak and limited in its arms as this will ensure Israel's protection since Israel's presence in the region paves the way for communist infiltration.

UAE

UK PRIME MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

GF221048 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] A session of extensive official talks began at 1030 today between the UAE and United Kingdom sides led by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Present during the meeting were the vice president and prime minister, Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum; the deputy prime minister, Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad; the president's chief secretary, Surur ibn Muhammad; the president's representative, Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi; the petroleum and natural resources minister and leader of the honorary mission, Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah; and the minister of foreign affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah. The session was also attended by the delegation accompanying the British prime minister including Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Douglas Hurd.

After the session Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah said that the president had stressed the importance of solving the Middle East issue because it has priority over other issues and is the Arabs' main cause. He added: The president also affirmed that Israel's expansion to the detriment of the Arab countries constitutes the gravest danger and that Zionist ambitions and recurrent aggression against Lebanon are a source of concern for the Arab nation.

The minister pointed out that the talks covered the situation in the Gulf. In this connection the president affirmed that Gulf security is the responsibility of the Gulf countries. The security of the region is linked to the security and stability of the Arab nation and to the solution of the Arab world's problems, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue.

On the European initiative the minister said: Prime Minister Thatcher said the EEC countries intend to prepare a European initiative to solve the Middle East issue on the basis of the Venice declaration on the Palestinian right of self-determination. He said: during the talks Mrs Thatcher lauded the Gulf Cooperation Council and said it is a good step on the way to stability, prosperity and progress of the countries of the region.

He pointed out that talks also covered the current international issues including Afghanistan and the necessity of the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the right of the Afghan people to determine their fate.

On the war between Iraq and Iran the minister said: The two sides welcome the efforts of the Islamic good office committee to end the war.

He concluded his statement by saying: The talks also covered the expansion of bilateral relations, especially cooperation in economic and cultural fields.

Aircraft Agreement

LD221318 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1327 GMT 22 Apr 81

[By Chris Moncrieff, chief political correspondent in Abu Dhabi]

[Excerpts] Mrs Thatcher today clinched a major military aircraft deal in the Gulf--a deal which could mean thousands more jobs in Britain. United Arab Emirates officials told her during her visit to Abu Dhabi that they are to buy the British Hawk trainer aircraft to develop their air force. The Emirates will also be buying the British expertise to go with the plane. This includes what is called the "flyaway" facility, providing the Emirates with instructors from Britain. No decision has yet been reached about the numbers required, but this and other details will be thrashed out by the two sides in talks which will start about two weeks from now.

News of the decision was given to Mrs Thatcher by Shaykh Khalifah, crown prince of Abu Dhabi, and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Their decision to purchase the Hawk was, he told Mrs Thatcher, "to develop our air force." Sir Ronald Ellis, head of the Ministry of Defense Sales, and the Shaykh immediately shook hands on the deal, but nothing has yet been signed.

The Emirates will be spending about 4 million pounds on each aircraft with the training "system" they buy with it. There is no doubt that the Emirates were already impressed with the Aircraft, but that it was Mrs Thatcher's own personal backing for it which finally made up their minds to purchase.

Press Welcome

JN210906 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0640 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Apr (ENA)--Three local papers comment on the visit to the UAE today by British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher in the course of her current tour of the area.

In their commentaries AL-BAYAN, AL-KHALIJ and AL-FAJR are cautious in their welcome of Mrs Thatcher and stress the need to acquaint the British prime minister with the facts, especially that the Gulf's security and stability is the responsibility of its people and sons, not that of any outside power.

AL-BAYAN, which is published in Dubayy, says in its editorial: The Gulf people know their interests as well as the interests of their region. They know the factors that strengthen these interests and the dangers that threaten them. Therefore, they do not need anyone to tell them what these interests are or to defend these interests; they can do that themselves.

AL-BAYAN adds: Our interests lie in keeping the affairs of the region in the hands of its own people and out of those of foreign intervention. By guaranteeing our own interests we are also guaranteeing the interests of others. We are only antagonistic toward those who are antagonistic toward our issues. We are extending the hand of friendship to all those who wish to establish equal relations with us and discard their tutelary mentality.

The paper continues: Regarding the Gulf's security and stability, which have become an obsession and a source of anxiety for some people, we would like to reassure these people that the Gulf's security and stability are firm and solid. They should have no fear.

Concluding, AL-BAYAN says: We hope that Mrs Thatcher will come out with this conviction after her visit to our country, and be the first to discard the illusion of quick intervention in our region and preach this conviction among her allies so they will stop making plans to interfere in our affairs on the pretext of defending their vital interests.

AL-KHALIJ, which is published in Ash-Shariqah, says editorially: The people of the Gulf area, which is being visited by Mrs Thatcher, were once a maritime power which controlled the high seas in the region from the Bab El Mandeb in the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf. They also controlled all the sea routes to the Far East. The paper adds: They are the people who repulsed the vanguards of the colonial invasion, offered martyrs and created heroes throughout history. We hope that Mrs Thatcher will understand this fact and, therefore, realize that the people of this area are capable of guaranteeing their own security and stability.

AL-FAJR welcomes the British prime minister's visit and says: The best that Britain can do is to keep this area calm, safe and outside any conflict that could lead to a world-wide conflagration. This can only be achieved by an urgent just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an editorial by 'Ubayd al-Masru'i AL-FAJR continues: We are aware of the fact that the United Kingdom and many other European states have vital interests in the region which are also our own interests. We sincerely wish to secure the interests of all of our peoples, but we would like them to be interests of friendly sovereign states which repudiate domination or coercion.

Addressing Mrs Thatcher, AL-FAJR says: While you are on UAE soil we would like your country to adopt a courageous stand with regard to the European initiative on the Middle East. We would like the awaited initiative to contribute to the achievement of peace and security not only in the Middle East but also in the whole world.

PDRY PLANS TO ESTABLISH CONSULATE IN UAE

GF201651 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 20 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Abu Dhabi--The PDRY's deputy foreign minister for expatriate affairs, Muhammad Ghalib Ahmad, has announced a UAE-PDRY agreement to establish a PDRY consular mission in the UAE that will handle the affairs of PDRY nationals living there.

The PDRY official, who left the UAE yesterday, told AL-KHALIJ that the president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, are constantly examining fraternal bilateral relations. He expressed his great satisfaction with the results of his visit to the UAE and declared: I discussed cooperation and economic, cultural and information relations between the two fraternal countries.

He thanked UAE officials for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him during his stay in the country.

YAR

REPUBLICAN DECREE NO 60 APPOINTS MINISTERS

JN202111 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Republican Decree No 60 for the year 1981 was issued today. Following the introduction, the decree stipulates the following:

Article 1. The following brothers will be appointed as follows: Brother Lutfi Husayn al-Kilabi, minister of local government; Brother Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of state and secretary general of the Higher Council of Youth and Sports; and Muhammad Husayn (?Jaghman), minister of municipalities and housing.

Article 2. This decree will be implemented effective from the date of its issuance and will be published in the official paper.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 15 Jumada ath-Thani 1401 Heijira, corresponding to 20 April 1981.

[Signed] Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces in the presence of Dr 'Abd al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani, prime minister

BRIEFS

PDRY-USSR TRADE AGREEMENT--An agreement was signed this morning for cooperation between the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Brother 'Abdullah (al-Hamzah), president of the Chamber of Commerce and general manager of (An-Nasr) Trading Company, signed the agreement on behalf of the Yemeni side. Comrade (Muhyi Aldonov), deputy president of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who is currently visiting our country at the invitation of the president of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Aden, signed on behalf of the Soviet side. The agreement provides for the development and organization of of joint cooperation in the trade and economic fields, exchange of experiences, training cadres, exchange of study visits between the two chambers and experiences in products of the two countries, and holding trade exhibitions. Speeches were exchanged at the ceremony on the consolidation of the bonds of firm friendship that binds the two friendly countries in various fields. [Text] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Apr 81 LD/EA]

EGYPT WELCOMES U.S. SUPPLY OF AWACS TO SAUDIS

NC230934 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)--Egypt has welcomed the U.S. administration's decision approving the supply of AWACS plans to Saudi Arabia and termed the decision as extremely vital.

Answering a question whether that means the beginning of rapprochement between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt welcomes any rapprochement with the Arab states, but this question was not within this framework. He said that Egypt believes the sale of such planes was a vital question to strengthen the security of the area.

In a statement published in AL-AHRAM today, Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that Egypt asked to be supplied with Hawkeye on the same basis as that asked by Saudi Arabia for AWACS planes, because Egypt clearly sees the dangers around it, particularly the Libyan interference in Chad.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON LEBANON

NC221550 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)--The Egyptian Foreign Ministry will in the next 2 days hold a series of diplomatic consultations in Cairo and other capitals concerned in continuation of the diplomatic moves initiated by Egypt aimed at ensuring the territorial integrity and safety of Lebanon and stopping the foreign intervention there. This was announced in a statement released today by the Foreign Ministry following the meetings of the ad hoc committee formed to discuss Lebanese developments.

The statement says that the committee discussed the latest developments and decided that Egypt's permanent UN representative, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, shall leave Cairo for New York with instructions to resume Egyptian moves, including contacts with UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Irish chairman of the UN Security Council and other members of the council, as well as representatives of the countries concerned, in New York. The statement also says that the committee today heard a report from Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on the contacts he has already held on behalf of Egypt at the United Nations regarding the Lebanese crisis.

ROMANIAN INTERIOR MINISTER ARRIVES ON VISIT

NC211805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)--Romanian Interior Minister Homostean arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Bucharest for a 1-week visit to Egypt at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, who was at the airport to welcome the Romanian guest. In a statememt at the airport, Homostean expressed his happiness at visiting Egypt and said he is looking forward to holding talks in Cairo on bilateral relations between the two countries in the field of security.

Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il said he was happy to welcome Mr Homostean. This visit, he said, is based on the special friendly and strong relations between Egypt and Romania. Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il explained that the purpose of the Romanian interior minister's visit is to exchange expertise and views on new experiments in the field of security within the framework of the strong relations between Romania and Egypt and the friendship of Presidents as-Sadat and Ceausescu.

'UTHMAN BOOK EXTRACT EXPOSES HIGH DAM INTRIGUES

LD221001 Cairo MAY in Arabic 13 Apr 81 p 5

[Extract from "Pages From My Experience," a book published by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister for Popular Development Affairs Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman]

[Text] I paused for a long time over my experience with the High Dam, pondering events and recalling scenes connected with it. I often asked myself: How was I able to come through that phase safely? There, I encountered more than one adversary and waged more than one battle on more than one front at the same time. Everybody was allied against me. I stood alone, challenging them and retaliating on the basis of the saying that "God defends the believers." I sought God's help. His graciousness toward me was tremendous.

What were the exciting events of that great story? My experiences prior to my High Dam experience revolved around turning a dream into a reality. My experience at the High Dam was a defensive struggle so that that reality might remain and grow in order to tell the story of man. It was a natural matter for us to fill our pockets with money in the Arab countries. What we procured was not a "gift" from anyone; we reaped the fruits of our endeavors and this was the price of what we offered. The money we accumulated there, as far as I was concerned, was a means for the attainment of the great objectives to which I had dedicated my life.

Work was in full swing in Saudi Arabia. While I was there, my thoughts revolved around the need to return to the land of Egypt to begin the march from there. From where? And how? I pondered that question until the newspapers appeared one day carrying an announcement saying: The Egyptian Irrigation Ministry requests that Egyptian contractors should form large associations so that through these associations they may submit bids for the building of the High Dam. That announcement gave me the opportunity to discuss the subject with my company colleagues.

I believed that we should tender on our own without anybody else's participation. My partners agreed with me but asked: "Can we undertake such an enormous project alone?" I reached agreement with a number of Polish companies to the effect that they would participate with me on a formal basis, so that our bid would be sound in form. By having the Polish companies participate, I wanted to deceive the Russians in order to neutralize their stand against me, because Poland is one of the satellites of the communist bloc. The bid was accepted formally and I overcame the first obstacle.

Against the Tycoons

Two sides were competing to win the contract. All the Egyptian contractors constituted one side and the 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman company the other. All the Egyptian contractors formed a single association instead of a number of associations as requested in the announcement. They submitted their bid jointly and not as competitors. Their aim was to impose the price they wanted on the state on the grounds that there were no competitors.

At the beginning they contacted me through Muhammad ibn al-'Abd Pasha and a long discussion took place betwen him and me, during which he threatened me at times and at other times cajoled me. He advised me to cooperate with them so that the operation would not prove to be the death of my ambitions, as he put it. He then began cajoling me, saying: "We have all agreed to enter a joint bid. We will submit a 'comfortable' bid, from which each one of us will benefit adequately. Do not be a fool, 'Uthman."

But I decided, according to him, to be a fool. He left me and went away, leaving the door open for me to think again.

'Abbud Pasha then contacted me. He asked me to "heed what was said to me." He warned me in vain of the foolish adventure which could spell the end of my professional life.

Astonishing Bombshell

Musa 'Arafah, may God have mercy on his soul, asked us on 12 January 1961 to attend the meeting at which the envelopes would be opened. He was minister of irrigation and of the High Dam at the time. The bombshell which shocked and stunned Egypt's contractor tycoons came during the meeting. Even the government of the time was puzzled. What was this bombshell? Engineer Musa 'Arafah, may God have mercy on his soul, opened my envelope to discover that my bid amounted to 15 million pounds. When he opened the tycoons' envelope, he discovered that their bid amounted to 27 million pounds. The difference was enormous.

That meant that either 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman did not know what he was doing or that the association of all contractors in Egypt wished to rob the state of 12 million pounds at a stroke. The situation was both astonishing and annoying because it meant that one of us was suspect.

The contractors of Egypt tried to cover up their predicament by uttering hysterical laughs which, outwardly, were meant to be derisive toward me, while actually they were meant to conceal the dilemma which had befallen them. With their laughs they sought to conceal the surprise which dumbfounded them. But I knew what I was doing.

The difference between the two bids, though enormous, was very reasonable. This statement surprised the minister who asked me: "How?" I told him: "All the contractors of Egypt had agreed to set a percentage of profit for each one of them as if each was submitting a separate bid. All together, there were 11 contractors, and none of them would agree to taking a profit of less than 1 million pounds each. For this reason, their combined profit would not be less than 11 million pounds. Therefore, if you deduct this sum from the bid they had submitted, you would discover that the real figure of their bid should not be more than 16 million pounds. If you compare my bid with this figure, you will discover that the difference is reasonable.

The man said: "How can I substantiate this?" I said: "With facts and figures, Mr Minister." I did not wait for his comment.

I had detonated a bomb which silenced everybody and settled all arguments. I am a man who is not very good at arguing with words but I am good at arguing with figures, because they present the strongest logical argument. The bombshell fell.

I would relinquish the bid letter which, as a result of my relinquishment, would reduce my bid by 500,000 pounds. [sentence as published]

Complete gloom prevailed over all those who were inside the hall. No one but Musa 'Arafah could find anything to say. He said: "The meeting is adjourned."

I entered Another Battle

It appeared that the regime then was convinced of the soundness of my position, because it did not discuss the subject with me any further. The contract was given to us on 8 February 1961 and the battle was considered to be over at that point, and we would have dedicated our efforts to working on the project but the regime had a different view. It wanted a "public sector" company to participate with me in the implementation of the project. The engineering adviser to the regime summoned me once again to inform me of this. At that time I did not even know what "public sector" meant.

I asked the engineering adviser to the regime what "public sector" meant. He explained it to me, and I understood that he meant the companies that are 100 percent owned by the state, or companies in which the state holds at least 30 percent of their capital.

I asked the man: Which company do you want to participate with me?

He said: The Misr Reinforced Concrete Company. This company had been owned by a Swiss businessman but it was Egyptianized in 1956. I declined the request, and said that this company was involved with the rest of the contractors in their bid. So how could I cooperate with it when it had joined the contractors association and was aware of what the objective was behind their bid?

The man insisted. I said that I would not be able to work in that sort of atmosphere and, therefore, I wished to be relieved of the whole operation. I also warned that neither this company nor the contractors it had linked up with would be able to carry out the colossal task. The meeting ended. The following day he summoned me and spoke to me in a way that revealed the treachery through which they wanted to browbeat me into acceptance.

I did not argue with him this time because I do not like talking. I got hold of a paper and pen and wrote: "I, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, chairman of the board of directors of the Engineering Company for General Industries and Contracts and holder of 75 percent of the company's shares, state that I turn over 30 percent of the company's sahres to the government." The engineering adviser to the regime was in a state of consternation when he saw me write those words. He asked me: "What are you writing?" I explained to him that I prefer my company to become one of the public sector companies rather than have anyone participate with me in the implementation of the High Dam project.

I then left his office and waited for the answer. He summoned me to inform me that the regime did not want a percentage of our company but it wanted me to accept the participation of the Misr Reinforced Concrete Company. I rejected the request and gave him a promise that I would reconsider the matter. I did not rethink the matter but went back to Saudi Arabia, where my company was operating.

While in Saudi Arabia, I was surprised by a flood of cables and telephone calls asking me to come to Cairo. When I arrived in Cairo I found a big crowd waiting to receive me at the airport. I was not accustomed to this at all, because usually the only person to see me off on all my travels and greet me on my return had been my chauffeur.

When I arrived at Musa 'Afafah's office, I found everything ready for my signature. There was a long interchange between me and Musa 'Arafah. In the end, I asked him to give me 2 days to think the matter over. The man agreed, but as soon as I reached my office at the company I was surprised by the director of his office asking to meet me.

Musa 'Arafah had contacted the regime and explained to it what had happened, but the regime insisted on finalizing everything there and then. For this reason, the director of Musa 'Arafah's office came to me with the papers to sign. That was on 11 March 1961. I signed and I accepted the Misr Reinforced Concrete Company as a 50 percent partner. That was the first time in my life I was forced into accepting something I did not want to accept.

The real battle to construct the huge dam then began. We spent a year of hard and tiring work. The immensity of what we accomplished dismayed the Russians. A new story of conflict and a long bitter battle with them began, but eventually I rubbed their noses in the dirt.

My first battle with them took place. In it they tried to get around me but not face me directly. They wanted to get rid of me, but their conspiracy resulted in my getting rid of the Misr Reinforced Concrete Company. They began to intrigue against me with the regime, which ordered Field Marshal 'Abd al-Hakim 'Amir to investigate the facts concerning the progress of work at the High Dam site. 'Amir secretly sent many intelligence men to investigate without my knowledge.

The Open Battle With the Russians

When the Russians' intrigures failed, they began to confront me directly. The Russians had made the Egyptian political leadership at the time believe that the Russians could implement the High Dam project. They had started work at the site 1 whole year before my company went there. The entire result of their work in all that time had been 100 cubic meters of surface excavation. They did not reach the depth of 140 meters underground and into the mountain, which we had reached.

It was obvious to me when I first saw them there that they were not interested in completing the work at the High Dam and wished the work to go on indefinitely. The longer it took the better the opportunities they would have to form communist cells and instill their venomous ideas into the minds of the young people. I set myself an aim: to frustrate their mean objective in order to protect my country and religion from all the destructive purposes of this objective. What did I do? I concentrated all my concern on the need to accomplish as much as possible so as to prove ourselves and to prove the ability of our compatriots and to give the Russians no opportunity to achieve their aims in our country.

The work at the High Dam had absorbed 35,000 men, who were working continuously round the clock. I divided the work into three shifts, each of which worked for 8 hours, and involved about 9,000 men. I tackled problems broadmindedly and by accurate arrangement and organization, which culminated in the fact that it took only 2 minutes to change shifts whereas it had taken 2 full hours to do that when the work started. It was an exciting experience from which I deduced that the Egyptian worker is a veritable giant, whose hands we must venerate.

The Russians were furious because I knew how to confront them. I confronted them with work, not words. I had inflicted a crushing defeat on them, which made them lose their composure and balance. They and I were pitted against each other and the language of figures did not need a judge. They had to find a solution. The only solution they found was to try to remove me from the work site. They began working to achieve this aim. Their plot was in two phases.

The Russians had laid down a program of work that did not allow the Egyptian to utilize his full capacity for work. They gave us obsolete equipment incapable of carrying out even this program, that shackled our ability to work.

We had the first confrontation with the program which, just like the machinery, proved absolutely useless, and therefore we had to get rid of it. Under that program our ability to work was paralyzed and the talents of our men remained unused.

I had to have a dialogue with the Russians on the subject. But instead of having a dialogue they turned their back on me. I had no alternative but to humiliate them.

The Russian Work Program Failed

How did this happen? A senior Russian adviser, whose head I recall was as big as his body, visited the work site at the dam. He had traveled from his country specially for this purpose--to see whether his men were carrying out the plan hatched against Egypt in Moscow or whether they were implementing the High Dam project.

A meeting was held at the work site in order to discuss the state of work. The meeting was attended by Hasan Zaki, who later became minister of irrigation and chairman of the board of the High Dam. I spoke very clearly and frankly at that meeting. I made it clear that we would not be able to achieve adequate productivity under the program being carried out. With open defiance he asked me: "Do you have an alternative?" I asked that I be given a period of 1 month, during which I would depart from the program and work according to a temporary program which I would put forward specially for this purpose.

I do not know what went on in the Russian adviser's mind to make him imagine that I was digging my own grave with my own hands. He accepted my proposal and I thanked God that he did not realize that I am a person who masters dialogue with work better than with words; work is the strongest logic in argument. I laid down a new program which took into consideration all the invisible factors which I know about the Egyptian worker.

We began to implement the new program, under which production increased from 2,000 cubic meters [of excavation] daily under the Russian program to 6,000 cubic meters daily under the Egyptian program. Nevertheless, we were unable to achieve the required target. The Russian equipment was working to the limit of its capacity and so we had to look for other equipment that would enable the Egyptian to give his best too. We imported equipment that made possible a jump in output to 25,000 cubic meters daily.

The Russians were exposed and their conspiracy failed, but the battle was not yet over and what had happened was only one round, which we had won. It became clear that the Russian equipment was incapable of completing the required program and, therefore, we had to look for alternative equipment. I came to the conclusion that Sweden had the most experience in the type of equipment we were using. Sweden is well known as a granite-producing country and its granite is one of the hardest types.

I went to Sweden and I came back with a team of experts, which presented a report proving that the Russian equipment was outmoded and could not compare with the most up-to-date equipment. In fact, they said that the world was no longer using this type of equipment and that it had long been superseded. They were most surprised that Egypt had accepted such equipment.

Nevertheless, the Russians remained obstinate and intractable, and they wanted to disprove the Swedish experts' conclusion that the fault lay in their equipment and not in the performance of the Egyptian worker using the equipment. They operated the equipment themselves in order to prove its efficiency and to show that we were unable to operate it efficiently. The result was an even bigger scandal. They brought their best engineers to operate their equipment, but failed to utilize it with the same skill that the Egyptians did.

While the Egyptians excavated 2 full cubic meters, their best engineers excavated only 20 centimeters [as published]. The Egyptian worker proved to be the best successor to the greatest predecessor--the worker whose forefathers had built history's first civilization on the banks of the Nile, across which their grandchildren subsequently succeeded in building a dam.

We asked the Russians for more modern equipment, but their answer was surprising. They said: "It is impossible for the new equipment to arrive any earlier than 2 years from the date it is requested." It was inconceivable that I should accept such a view, that would put further obstacles in the way of the implementation of the project. There had to be a solution.

I sent some of the company engineers to Sweden to buy rock-drilling equipment, to Britain to purchase Rolls Royce 35-ton trucks, and to the United States to buy bulldozers. We brought the equipment and began to work on the project, and productivity increased from 6,000 meters to 8,000 meters daily--to 12,000 meters and then to 20,000 and 25,000 cubic meters daily, whereas it had been no more than 2,000 meters daily.

The Most Devious High Dam Battles

The real objective of the Russians in all the battles in which they were involved with me was to delay the implementation of the High Dam project by any means, so as to ensure their presence in Egypt for as long as possible. They did everything possible to achieve this objective and resorted to various means.

They went to the regime and asked it to postpone the date of implementing the first stage of the High Dam for 2 years. They succeeded in making Musa 'Arafah believe them. I would recall that there was no reason for bringing up this question for discussion and, therefore, the request was strange and even more surprising to me. What happened?

Musa 'Arafah summoned me to sign a report he prepared in conjunction with the Russians, requesting a 2-year postponement of the completion date for the High Dam. I refused to sign. He was very surprised that I refused to sign. He said to me: "I do not understand why you refuse to sign when the report is to your advantage and will protect you from whatever might happen to you should the work on the dam not be completed on time." I told him: "I will, God willing, complete the work before the set time. So why should I approve the request to postpone it 2 years?"

Exactly a week after my meeting with Salah Nasr [as published], I was summoned by Marshal 'Abd al-Hakim 'Amir. It was the second time I met with that man. I game him my account of the High Dam story and the story of the Russians from A to Z. I assured him that there was no justification for postponing the completion of the High Dam for 2 years. I asked him for half a million pounds for the purchase of some necessary equipment for the project, in order to ensure its completion on time and without need for postponement. I said to him: "Wouldn't the state like to save 212 million pounds by paying half a million pounds?"

The marshal laughed and said jokingly: "What shall we do with you if you do not finish on time?" I said: "You will never find yourself asking this question." The man gave me a significant look as if wanting to say something, but I hastened to say: "If there is another dam that needs to be completed on the same day, then I am willing and ready."

GHALI INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT MIDEAST ISSUES

LD231225 Paris LE CONTINENT in French 15 Apr 81 p 6

[Mireille Lemaresquier interview in Geneva with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali: "No Peace in Middle East Unless the Lebanese Problem Is Resolved"--date not given]

[Text] LE CONTINENT: Minister, a few days ago, King Husayn of Jordan mentioned, when receiving American Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the possibility of a conference on the Middle East in Geneva. What do you think of this?

Butrus Ghali: Egyptian diplomacy is very flexible and supports any initiative likely to promote peace and capable of securing the agreement of all interested parties. If Israel accepts any such initiative, if the United States (which has played an extremely important role in this sphere) accepts it and if most Arab countries accept it, in such a case we will be in favor of such a conference.

LE CONTINENT: Would you also be in favor of PLO participation in such a conference?

Butrus Ghali: Yes, provided both Israel and the United States agree to it.

LE CONTINENT: How do you explain the delay in negotiations on Palestinian autonomy?

Butrus Ghali: During the American election campaign, it was difficult for the American administration to participate in any negotiations. Now that President Reagan has been elected, the new administration must be given time to study the dossiers. Finally, Israeli elections are being prepared, and we deem it advisable to wait for their results. Irrespective of what kind of government emerges from them, we hope that it will be a strong government which will be able to continue the present dialogue.

LE CONTINENT: Does this mean that negotiations will not be resumed before the summer or the fall?

Butrus Ghali: In principle, it seems that the negotiations will not be resumed before the fall.

LE CONTINENT: What are your views on the situation in Lebanon and the repeated Israeli intervention in southern Lebanon?

Butrus Ghali: We condemn any intervention by any third power, whether Syria or Israel.

LE CONTINENT: Couldn't your country play a role in the search for a solution to the Lebanese conflict?

Butrus Ghali: As you well know, we have no diplomatic relations with a certain number of Arab states, and this renders any mediating action difficult. However, whenever an opportunity arises for acting in an extremely discreet manner with a view to either bringing different viewpoints closer together or reestablishing certain contacts, we take advantage of it. Our aim is to achieve genuine peace in the Middle East, and this presupposes a solution to the Palestinian and Lebanese problems.

Our aim is to achieve a global and fair peace agreement which involves all the parties concerned. Therefore, we are as much interested in Lebanon as in either the Golan Heights or the Palestinian problem.

At present, we are working through secret diplomatic channels with a view to finding partial solutions, in anticipation of an opportune moment for devising a general solution to the Lebanese problem. We believe that such a solution should be based on two principles: The territorial integrity and the political independence of Lebanon, an Arab League member. We are opposed to any partition.

SADDAM HUSAYN INTERVIEWED ON WAR AIMS, MEDIATION

LD230749 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Apr 81 pp 20-23

[Interview granted by President Saddam Husayn to Sulayman al-Farzali and Huda al-Husayni in Baghdad--date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Let us now talk about Iran. Founder-Leader Michel 'Aflaq, in his speech on the anniversary of the establishment of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, threw light on past and future matters some of which concerned Iran. He gave the impression that we [the Arabs] are also responsible for defining the course of the Iranian peoples. Does the future of Iran also preoccupy your thinking?

Saddam Husayn: I think that the comrade founder-leader meant that this war will liberate Iran from a backward mentality. The object here is the result and not the intention. This is not our responsibility; we have not entered into a war in order to liberate Iran from a mistaken mentality, but one of the results of this war could be to liberate it from such a mentality. Therefore, the war will positively be in the interest of the Iranian peoples.

AL-HAWADITH: But you have said in your public speeches that you will help the Iranian peoples to establish a regime with which you can come to an understanding. What sort of regime do you want for Iran?

Saddam Husayn: Any regime that will respect the Arab nation and its rights. That is the regime we want. It is immaterial whether it is a capitalist or socialist regime, a one-party regime, an autocratic regime or a multiparty regime.

AL-HAWADITH: Whether civilian or military?

Saddam Husayn: Whether civilian or military. As far as we are concerned we have in mind no particular color for the regime, except that it should respect the Arab nation and its rights. As for other things it is a matter between the regime and its peoples.

AL-HAWADITH: Mr President, in your previous meeting with the Islamic mediation committee--not yesterday's meeting but the one before it--you said that you recognize only what Khomeyni says because constitutionally he has the final say. Does this situation delay the possibility of a solution?

Saddam Husayn: Not exactly. We said that Khomeyni is a man of religion but he is also a man who has a clear-cut position in the Iranian Constitution in that he has assumed the post of imam and so makes rulings. Therefore, he rejects or accepts, and so he must be dealt with on the basis of this fact. But now we cannot say that even Khomeyni's word is the final word. The reality is different. The final say now lies with many people and not only one person. Therefore, it is difficult to reach a solution with several mentalities and several centers of power.

AL-HAWADITH: Then it is to be understood from this that, if this state of affairs continues, the war will continue for several years.

Saddam Husayn: We have prepared ourselves for the continuation of war regardless of how long it will last. We have also prepared ourselves for the war to end at this moment--at the time when the conditions are ripe for them to recognize our rights.

AL-HAWADITH: The lawful rights and the additional rights?

Saddam Husayn: Yes, the lawful rights and the additional rights as well, which have all become lawful rights.

AL-HAWADITH: We have been told in Jordan that during the shah's regime King Husayn used to intercede in certain Gulf issues, such as the issue of Bahrain, but that when he tried to intercede in the matter of the three islands the shah declined to accept his intercession on the grounds that he had an understanding on the matter with the people concerned. Now you are demanding the return of the three islands as one of the conditions for peace. Do you insist on this even if those concerned are satisfied with the status quo?

Saddam Husayn: How can this be? Can you tell someone that these islands are yours and have him reply that they are not his? That is illogical. It does not make sense. If we say: These are your islands, Shaykh Zayid [UAE president], we have brought them back to you while you sat at home, and he then says that he does not want them, he would be behaving illogically.

AL-HAWADITH: The question is not whether he refuses or accept them when you offer them to him but whether the islands are a basic condition for peace.

Saddam Husayn: Yes, they are a basic condition. We said this to the mediation committee at the last meeting. We told them: If you think that this is only a tactic then you are wrong. It is a basic condition. One of the things they told us was that the Iranians want to separate the question of the islands from that of Iraqi rights and that therefore they want separate committees. We said that we have no objection, not being the kind of people who like to create problems. But do not imagine that we will sign [an agreement] before Shaykh Zayid signs one. First Shakyh Zayid must sign, we must see his signature, and then he must take back the islands that belong to him. That is what we told the mediation committee.

AL-HAWADITH: You have announced that you have purchased arms worth billions of dollars from all quarters, both on the black market and on the open market, except from Israel. Some time ago Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat revealed that he had sold arms to Iraq. Is it possible to give us an idea about the quantity and type of these arms? Will this deal enable Egypt to lessen its present Arab isolation?

Saddam Husayn: We have been clear on this subject. On more than one occasion we have said that we would buy any arms that were useful to us and were offered to us on the black market or the open market, directly or indirectly--with the exception of arms from Israel--as long as they were usable against our enemy. The same principle applies to the Egyptian weapons that have been offered to us or will be offered to us in the future. As to whether the arms deal will give [Egypt] an element of strength, I must say that life is not a one-way road. Does our present international dealing with the Soviet Union give it strength enough to make all the peoples communists? Do relations with the United States give it strength to such a point as to enable it to dominate the world and to force the world to follow its course? This is a complex matter. The question is: What benefit accrues from relations between any two given parties? As far as I am concerned, I am defending the homeland, which is more precious than anything else. Our disagreement with the Egyptian regime is a disagreement over the homeland. Therefore, when I obtain arms from any source in order to use them in strengthening my homeland, I fundamentally benefit, regardless of the benefit reaped by the other party. It is natural that all those who offer arms want to benefit, because for the arms that we buy through intermediaries or on the black market we pay several times more than the actual cost. These arms are offered for profit-making.

AL-HAWADITH: With regard to the question of dealings and benefits. This is bound to be mutual; you are not the only one to benefit. The other party will benefit and could exploit this benefit in a manner detrimental to you. Iraq benefits from King Husayn's stand, and King Husayn also benefits. There are some who say that King Husayn's position was strengthened as a result of these relations, but they are afraid that he might take a step in the international arena that would benefit him but might harm Iraq.

Saddam Husayn: First of all we should not make presumptions and then seek a stand on them. This is wrong. But I would give here a general answer to all the cases you are asking about. We appraise peoples on the basis of their attitudes. If one day Jordan adopted an attitude that we did not like, then we would frankly say to it: We do not like this. There is no "carte blanche" that applies to all cases whatever they may be; there is no such thing in politics.

FINANCE MINISTER DENIES SEARCHING FOR LOANS

LD200852 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0812 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 20 Apr (KUNA)--Iraqi Finance Minister Thamir Razuqi al-Shaykhli has denied reports that his country will seek loans worth hundreds of millions of dollars from the other Arab oil-producing countries in the Gulf region, reports the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN today. The paper quotes him also as saying that Iraq's financial conditions is "sound," in spite of the 7-month-old war with Iran.

Earlier press reports said that Iraq was seeking loans worth $14 billion from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar. But in his statement to AL-WATAN, Al-Shaykhli is quoted as having said that "Iraq has financial reserves in addition to its oil exports and good agriculture production this year. All these place Iraq in a strong position, making it unnecessary for it to seek loans." "Our development projects," he adds, "are proceeding according to plan and have not been affected at all by current conditions."

RAMADAN LEAVES FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BULGARIA

JN221241 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Apr (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad today at the head of an Iraqi delegation on a visit of several days to Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. In a predeparture statement to the INA Ramadan said his talks with the Czechoslovak officials would focus on developing bilateral relations in the technical and economic domains commensurate with the standard of their developed relations. He added that he would explain to the Czechoslovak officials Iraq's views on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and on Iraq's legitimate right to sovereignty over its usurped land and waters. He expressed the hope that this visit would open new horizons of cooperation between the two friendly countries in a manner which serves the interests of the two peoples and that it would reactivate the Czechoslovak companies' participation in implementing the developments projects in Iraq.

On his visit to Bulgaria the first deputy prime minister said that he would hold talks with Bulgarian officials on means to bolster the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in service of the two peoples' interests.

The delegation is made up of Taha Ibrahim al-'Abdallah, planning minister; Ahmad Husayn, Foreign Ministry under secretary; 'Abd al-Muhsin Hasan 'Alwan, oil ministry under secretary; and a number of officials.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 314

JN221741 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Communique No 314 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 22 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With enthusiasm and heroism our valiant armed forces continue to pound the racist Persian forces in the operations sectors. The following are the results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our advance units clashed with an enemy infantry force supported by artillery and helicopters in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region and strongly pounded it with all weapons, killing 103 troops, wounding a large number, capturing 27 and destroying 2 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier and 4 ammunition stockpiles. One enemy helicopter was downed.
B. Our advanced units pounded with their weapons enemy troop concentrations in the Gilan-e Gharb region and forced them to flee, leaving behing 14 dead.
C. Three were killed and one ammunition stockpile was destroyed in the Mimak region opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. One ammunition stockpile was destroyed in the Mehran region.
E. Our units pounded enemy concentrations opposite our positions in the Dezful region and forced them to retreat after killing 57 troops and destroying 1 field gun and 1 vehicle. Our units destroyed two ammunition stockpiles in the same region.
F. One of our units attacked enemy positions in the Shush region and severely pounded them with all weapons, killing 13 and destroying 1 vehicle.
G. Our units pounded enemy troops in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] and forced them to retreat, leaving behind 27 dead.
H. Twelve were killed and two vehicles, two excavators and two ammunition stockpiles were destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 229 dead, a large number wounded, 27 captured, 1 field gun, 4 vehicles, 2 excavators, 10 ammunition stockpiles, 2 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier and 1 helicopter.

II. While celebrating their 50th anniversary today, our valiant air forces launched a brave raid against enemy military targets as follows:

A. Our planes raided enemy troop concentration in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base.
B. Our planes raided enemy vehicles and troop concentrations in the same region, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 16 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment One personnel carrier, two vehicles and one mortar were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 April 1981

AMMAN CITES UK PAPER ON SYRIAN, LIBYAN AID TO IRAN

JN202233 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] London--The British paper THE DAILY MAIL reports today that in accordance with an agreement between Iran and Syria reached during a secret visit to Damascus by the Iranian defense minister, Syrian MiG-23 fighters are carrying out combat tasks with Iranian fighter planes against Iraqi targets. Citing its diplomatic correspondent the paper adds that in line with this agreement, Syria has pledged to offer military facilities, including air cover, to Iranian planes and to allow Iranian planes to use Syrian air bases.

The correspondent adds that the Syrians took part for the first time in the joint operations with the Iranians a few days ago when four Syrian MiG's flew cover for eight Iranian Phantoms when the latter attacked Iraqi civilian targets near the outskirts of the Iraqi oil fields in Kirkuk. The paper explains that Iraqi missiles downed two Phantoms but that these planes managed to reach Syrian territory. One of these two Phantoms crashed at Dayr az-Zawr air base while the other made an emergency landing at another base. Meanwhile, the six remaining Iranian Phantoms landed at other Syrian bases. The paper reports further that Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has instructed one of the Libyan training institutes to train Iranian crews to operate Soviet-made tanks.

AD-DUSTUR VIEWS FATE OF U.S.-SAUDI ARMS DEAL

JN180951 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New Lesson for Dealing With Washington," AD-DUSTUR writes: Before Washington admitted the dilemma facing President Reagan's administration regarding the aircraft and radar deal with Saudi Arabia, Menahem Begin said in Tel Aviv that the deal would not be carried out. Thus, it is the Israeli decision that determines the U.S. stand.

Despite the U.S. administration's efforts, particularly those of Secretary of State Haig, to materialize the deal, the strong Senate opposition indicates that the United States will back down on all its pledges to the Saudi Government so as to please Israel, to secure the balance of power in Israel's favor and to maintain Israel as a necessary strategic support for U.S. policy in the area, as Haig put it. Hence, the U.S. administration has failed to test the good intentions of the Arabs, including Saudi Arabia, toward President Reagan in attempting to make him see matters from a reasonable standpoint that would ensure security and peace for the area and at the same time ensure the interests of everyone, including the United States.

The paper adds: The Saudi deal, which is opposed by the Senate, is to be paid for and not free of charge as is the case with the arms deals and political and economic support given to Tel Aviv, which constitutes an arsenal of even the most sophisticated arms not yet given to Washington's NATO allies.

The logical reply to this U.S. stand is not difficult or impossible in view of the political, economic, oil and financial weapons possessed by the Arabs, particularly Saudi Arabia, and its results would certainly not favor United States. The aircraft deal can be concluded with another source since the sources of weapons are many, particularly since there are many countries both in the East and West ready to offer an alternative.

The paper concludes: The U.S. stand on the arms deal to Saudi Arabia will be a hard lesson for the Arabs, who must reconsider their ways of dealing with the United States, as it has proved that it is captive to all the previous negative stands and proved that President Reagan, like other presidents, is captive to the Zionist influence in the Senate.

PRESS VIEWS SOUTHERN LEBANON, UK-SAUDI TALKS

JN220935 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Today's newspaper editorials deal with two regional issues: the developments of the situation in Lebanon and the Saudi-British talks during the visit of the British prime minister to the area.

On the developments of the situation in Lebanon, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR's editorial, under the title "Lebanon, Before It Is Too Late," says: The only logical explanation for the concentrated Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon is that Israel has begun a countdown for launching an all-out attack to occupy southern Lebanon and consolidate its control of the northern front, while it rests assured that there is no obstruction to prevent it from achieving this.

The newspaper adds: What calls for wonder and distaste is that several international quarters are moving either for Lebanon or against it, with the exception of the Arab countries, which are adopting the stand of the idle observer toward the Lebanese tragedy and the danger to which Lebanon is being subjected, as though what is happening in Lebanon is not happening in a fraternal Arab country.

Where is the Arab League? Why has it not moved on behalf of Lebanon, and why has it not been moved by the dangers threatening the Arabs through the Lebanese gap? Claims that the Arab League has not received any Lebanese or Arab requests to discuss the Lebanese crisis are worthless pretexts because there is no Lebanese will to unanimously back such a request, nor is there an Arab will to move to save Lebanon. It would have behooved the Arab League to move of its own accord, because this falls within the sphere of its tasks and responsibilities.

Amid this black, thick fog, a glimmer of hope appears in the Kuwaiti move on Lebanon's behalf and the invitation to Lebanese leadership to meet and agree to a solution which will save their country from being lost.

On British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's talks with Saudi officials in Riyadh, the newspaper AR-RA'Y editorial says: The statements made by Mrs Thatcher at the end of her talks with Saudi officials indicate two things: The first indication is that Britain does not distinguish between the issue of peace in the area and issue of the national rights of the Palestinian people. The second indication is that Britain admits that stability in the Gulf area is the responsibility of the countries in the area and that the Rapid Deployment Forces should not be considered without reference to the will of these countries.

These two indications mean that the British view of the means to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the area has broken through the Camp David framework to the essence of the issue, the national rights of the Palestinian people. Mrs Thatcher declared Britain's recognition of these rights. We also find that the British view of stability in the Gulf coincides with the Arab stand on this issue.

Perhaps one of the points that catches the attention most at the end of Mrs Thatcher's talks in Riyadh is the strong link existing, which Saudi Arabia declared in its official statement, between a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question and the establishment of stability in the Gulf area. This means that the Palestine question is the key to both peace and stability. In addition, Saudi support for the European initiative, which appeared in the statement, is considered to have weight and good reason. It gives the impression that the British stand which Mrs Thatcher declared toward the issues of peace and stability in the area represents the essence of the European initiative.

In any case, the results of the Saudi-British talks, as viewed through the statements made by the British prime minister, and the official Saudi statement issued at the end of the talks, are considered encouraging.

AL-WAZZAN INTERVIEWED ON SITUATION, U.S. ROLE

LD231119 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 18-24 Apr 81 pp 17-18

[Interview given to Samir Shahin by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in Beirut--date not given]

[Excerpt] Beirut--[Question] Lebanon has experienced the climate of the 1975-1976 war during the past few days. Do you think that what has happened and is happening in Lebanon will lead to a generalized war similar to the 2-year war?

[Answer] The phases of the bloody plot which began in Lebanon in 1975 still continue even now. Lebanon continues perseveringly and patiently to search for the means of salvation. The new bloody phase we are now experiencing is one of the most serious phases through which the situation in Lebanon has passed since 1975. The danger of reverting to the 2-year war atmosphere exists as long as we continue to be entangled in the snare of the plot whose phases are not yet over. However, we hope that the Lebanese people's vigilance and confrontation of the plotters in all areas and on all levels will frustrate the plot, especially now, when Lebanon,--country and people,--cannot tolerate further bloodshed and tragedies.

[Question] What are the reasons which triggered the situation in Zahlah and Beirut and other places at a time when the situation appeared to be moving toward calm, following the summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Sarkis in Damascus?

[Answer] As a result of the practical experiences the state has endured, we have become convinced that, whenever preparations are made for the process of detente and for dispatching more Lebanese Army forces to the south, the Lebanese arena witnesses in a fabricated manner security explosions of various dimensions commensurate with the size of the preparations. In view of the extremely important decisions resulting from the talks between Presidents al-Asad and Sarkis in Damascus with regard to the deployment of more Lebanese Army forces in the south and the question of national detente, and in view of the fact that these decisions have an executive character supported by the state's firm and final determination, the state was confronted by this serious explosion. It is as if the purpose is to paralyze what is left of the state's effectiveness, will to act and determination to surmount the snares and the dams and, consequently, to keep the homeland in the state of disintegration and collapse from which it has been suffering for 6 and 1/2 years. This confirms the seriousness of the current phase of the continuing conspiracy.

[Question] What is your opinion on what is being said to the effect that the Arab and international conflicts and U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's tour have contributed to kindling the fire? What is Israel's role in all this?

[Answer] We are undoubtedly experiencing a phase of intensifying international conflicts and confrontations in more than one field and in more than one direction. Lebanon has become one of the basic arenas of international confrontation. There is no doubt either that the international conflict constitutes one of the important reasons which basically led to unleashing the plot and then continuing with it and intensifying it, as is seen in the serious and bloody incidents we are now witnessing. As for Haig's tour of the area, the nature of his moves and statements and his call on the Arabs to give priority to what he termed "confronting the Soviet dangers in the area" and to regard the Arab-Israeli conflict as a secondary and less important issue make many people see these moves as contributing to fanning the current conflict, especially what has reached us of Haig's statements which contain much encouragement to Israel to embark on new aggressive actions against Lebanon and the Lebanese.

[Question] In your opinion, what new matters did Haig's letter to President Sarkis contain? Did Haig's envoy Morris Draper bring reassurances to Lebanon?

[Answer] Haig's letter to President Sarkis is self-explanatory. It contained postures as a result of the contacts Haig had made with many Arab and international quarters and certain groups. We explained to Draper our stance on the situation in Lebanon and the area as well as on the Palestinian issue. We discussed this matter in a very frank way dictated by the critical and grave phase through which we are passing and which puts us at a delicate crossroads at a time when the Reagan administration is trying to chart its policy on these matters. There is no doubt that the international community, including the United States, bears a major responsibility in these circumstances. The international community must be confronted with its responsibilities. We felt that Haig's envoy fully understood our views, especially on the situation in south Lebanon, since we strongly urged the United States to act to prevent Israel from committing aggression and regarded this as a basic test of the attitudes of the United States in particular and the international community in general.

[Question] Do you believe that there is an actual danger of an Israeli military intervention in Lebanon and a Syrian-Israeli war?

[Answer] The situation in Israel and in the Arab arenas, as well as the international situation and its tense atmospheres, in addition to the extremely pro-Israeli American attitude, constitute a serious situation in which the probability of war increases. Since the danger of a confrontation with Israel exists in all circumstances, the present explosive Lebanese situation increases the possibility of such a confrontation. Many Lebanese and Arab circles are cautiously and seriously expecting Israel to strike and possibly an Israeli-Syrian war to start in south Lebanon. This is why constant efforts are being made on every level to prevent this from happening and to avert more tragedies and perils for Lebanon.

[Question] Does the Lebanese Government's decision to send more Lebanese Army forces to the south still stand, and when will it be implemented?

[Answer] This decision is a strategic and final one. It represents a realization of national sovereignty and enables the state to establish its authority on a basic and important area of Lebanon in the south. Therefore, there is no going back on this decision or changing it. The explosion with which the hostile forces are confronting us to prevent the implementation of this decision provides definite proof of the national, moral and military importance of this decision. Despite the fact that the present explosions and the disturbed situation obstruct or impede the implementation of the decision, we are determined to surmount them with all the determination, resolve and capabilities we have.

[Question] What is the present standard of Lebanese-Syrian relations? Have the recent Zahlah and Beirut incidents had any effect on the presence of the deterrent forces in Lebanon?

[Answer] The violence of the current incidents, the harshness of the circumstances resulting from them, the ferocity of the challenges and the continued conspiracy ought to prompt us to reach more understanding, coordination and cooperation with our Syrian brothers.

The presence of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon was dictated by circumstances and motives which continue to exist and which have exacerbated. In its present difficult circumstances, Lebanon cannot dispense with the role the deterrent forces are playing. The Zahlah incidents should prompt all parties concerned to find a sound basis for preventing similar incidents from recurring in the future--incidents which only serve the conspiracy and the plotters and cause more destruction and ruin to Lebanon and all its factions.

AL-WAZZAN MAKES STATEMENT AFTER CABINET MEETING

NC221748 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiz al-Wazzan this morning continued his contacts with the security commands to learn about the situation throughout Lebanon. He stressed the need for action to calm the situation.

Al-Wazzan also held political contacts aimed at resolving the situation before he went to the Republican Palace.

The Cabinet held a 1-hour meeting at noon today at the Republican Palace. Asked as he was leaving the palace about the atmosphere and discussions during the meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said that the meeting was devoted to studying certain projects on the agenda, particularly since the meeting was delayed from the original date. Before discussing these projects, the Cabinet discussed the security situation in the country and reviewed the work the ministerial accord committee did yesterday.

Asked about Arab moves and the current contacts between Beirut and Damascus regarding the situation, Al-Wazzan said that these contacts are not over yet and have not yet achieved the required results. He said: We hope that the contacts will achieve what we hope for.

Asked whether the Cabinet discussed closing Beirut's airport, Al-Wazzan said: The Cabinet did not discuss this issue because it was settled yesterday. The airport is open, although it is practically crippled by shellfire. The airport must remain open because it is vital.

Following the Cabinet meeting President Sarkis held a meeting with Arab Deterrent Forces commander Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib. During the meeting they reviewed the current contacts between Beirut and Damascus aimed at tackling the security situation in light of Al-Khatib's talks in Damascus with senior Syrian officials.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY REJECTS SAUDI SOLUTION PROPOSAL

NC221900 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] It has been disclosed that Saudi Arabia has made a proposal on a solution of the Lebanese crisis to be implemented in conjunction with Syria. However, the Syrian side has rejected this proposal under the pretext that it is present in Lebanon in a legitimate Arab cloak.

VOL REPORTS BEIRUT CLASHES, CEASE-FIRE ORDER

NC221850 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Since 1600 and up to the time this newscast was prepared, Al-Ashrafiyah and the contact lines from the commercial markets up to Sodeco, Al-Barjawi, the museum, At-Tayyunah, Furn ash-Shubbak, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Galerie Sim'an, Al-Hadath, Al-Hazimiyah, Sinn al-Fil, Hursh Thabit and [name indistinct] were still being subjected to randomly fired artillery shells and rocket missiles from Syrian positions and those stationed behind rocket launchers and their henchmen.

Certain positions from which heavy shells are being fired have been determined: these are Burj al-Murr, Bisharah al-Khuri, Ziqaq al-Balat and the sports stadium.

The Lebanese Army positions on the contact lines in the areas of Sinn al-Fil, Hursh Thabit and Al-Hadath have not been spared from the spiteful shelling.

What about the losses? Preliminary reports say that a number of people have been killed or wounded in the shelled area, besides heavy material damage. A short while ago we learned that a number of people have been injured in Sinn al-Fil.

In Al-Ashrafiyah, seven persons have been injured, one of them seriously.

Hospitals and places of worship have not escaped this uncivilized shelling. Some of them have received direct hits from rockets and incendiary shells. Fires have been seen in some buildings. Two single-story buildings and four multistory houses have been destroyed. Fires have been seen in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyah areas and firemen have not been able to put them out.

In the Furn ash-Shubbak area, 200 shells have struck, one of which caused a building to burn down.

Some nine shells have fallen inthe Ad-Dawrah area, causing only material damage.

In the Karm az-Zaytun area, 16 heavy shells have fallen; 2 field artillery and the rest 120-mm caliber shells. Preliminary reports have not mentioned any casualties.

Our correspondent in the Al-Hadath area reported a short while ago that shells had landed madly at a rate of 15 a minute. The church of Sayidat al-Hadath and a shelter were hit. About six persons were hit by shrapnel.

In [name indistinct], shells have fallen on a number of residential areas, particularly the (Qalb Yasu') area up to Jisr al-Basha, where there are Lebanese Army positions.

The perimeter of the Republican Palace has been hit by several shells. A number of shells have struck in the (Mansuriyat al-Matn) area and a great fire was seen in Al-Mukallis.

Our correspondent said that the aggressors' position in Burj [name indistinct] was directly hit by shells, destroying a rocket launcher and injuring five people, reportedly from the Arab Deterrent Forces. Fires have broken out in this area.

In Ra's an-Nab' a number of shells have hit, but it is not known whether there have been casualties.

A number of shells have struck the Al-Qintari area. In the western area the Resources Ministry in Ash-Shiyah has been hit and the building of BAYRUT paper in the area has burned down.

Reports from the Republican Palace say that President Sarkis, in his capacity as the supreme commander of the ADF, which is under his command, gave a cease-fire order at 1830 today. Sources of the Lebanese forces said that their elements complied with the cease-fire on all fronts as of 1830.

VOL REPORTS ZAHLAH SHELLING, BISHOP'S APPEAL

NC221634 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Syrian artillery shelling surprised the citizens of Zahlah this morning. The artillery fire commenced at 1030 and 1230 against the residential areas of Al-Barbarah, 'Ayn ad-Dawq heights, Wadi al-'Arayish and (Ar-Rasiyah).

The brave Syrian artillery again commenced its brave shelling at 1500. The tank and mortar shelling became violent at 1600 and focused on the suburbs of Mar Ilyas, (Sayyidat an-Najah), Al-Barbarah and (Ar-Rasiyah); fire broke out in the shelled buildings.

Our correspondent reported a few minutes ago that Zahlah is now being subjected to a rain of shells.

Today seven persons were killed and a number of people wounded by Syrian shelling.

In view of this spiteful practice in disregard of humanitarian and lawful grounds, the bishops and functionaries of the city held a meeting, and Bishop Farah held a series of contacts on their behalf. He has telephoned the White House and a number of embassies and political and spiritual leaders. He has also telephoned the Republican Palace, the Vatican's Embassy, Patriarch Khuraysh and the U.S., French, FRG and Saudi Embassies as well as the Lebanese consul in Detroit.

In addition, Bishop Farah has telephoned officials at the Soviet Embassy, and said: We know that the Soviet Union can, if it wants, stop this inhuman onslaught against the city and innocent people of Zahlah.

Bishop Farah has sent a similar appeal to the White House, calling on world conscience and President Reagan to put an end to the siege and destruction encircling the approximately 200,000 people of Zahlah who are without food, water and electricity.

We have learned that the Syrians have brought new troops and equipment to reinforce their positions in the Al-Biqa' area.

SYRIANS REPORTED SHELLING AIRPORT; AIRLINER HIT

NC230808 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Security sources have said that the shelling of Beirut's airport and its runways was done from the gun empladements of the Syrian Army at the Al-Qital School on the airport road. The shells were of the 82-mm and 62-mm caliber. Two shells fell near the office of the chief of the airport security, Maj Gen Sami an-Nakadi. One shell hit a Middle East Airlines Boeing 707 causing severe damage. Another shell fell on a bus belonging to the same company. The bus driver was unhurt.

UNIFIL SAID TO FORCE ISRAELI COMMANDOS' WITHDRAWAL

NC221700 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] In southern Lebanon the Netherlands UNIFIL contingent stationed in the town of Yatir has opened fire on an Israeli commando unit that tried to infiltrate across the observations posts in the area to carry out acts of sabotage, forcing the Israeli unit to withdraw to the border strip.

This was followed by Israeli shelling of the areas around Yatir, causing material damage.

VOL CITES ISRAEL'S DENIAL OF SHELLING TYRE

NC230938 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] An Israeli military source has denied reports that Israeli gunboats shelled Tyre port this morning. The source said that these reports were absolutely untrue.

MAJOR HADDAD LEAVES HOSPITAL FOR TEL AVIV 23 APR

NC230742 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Free Lebanon commander Major Haddad left the hospital in Haifa yesterday. He is due in Tel Aviv where he will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin this morning. The two leaders will hold a meeting in which they will evaluate the situation in Lebanon as a whole, particularly the situation in southern Lebanon. They will also evaluate relations with UNIFIL forces operating in southern Lebanon.

The Voice of Hope radio has learned that the meeting between the two leaders is at Major Haddad's request.

Major Haddad spoke to journalists about his extreme idignation over mob actions in Sidon which resulted in the burning of the Christian churches and bishoprics in the townships.

The free Lebanon commander affirmed that the free Lebanon forces shelled Sidon not because it is a Muslim township but because it is the capital of Palestinian occupation and sabotage, which is being practiced in and from it against Lebanon--the south and free Lebanon.

COMMENTARY PRAISES RESOLUTIONS OF PNC SESSION

JN210804 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Apr 81

["Palestine Broadcast" commentary by Fayiz Qandil: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers: The PNC resolutions are extremely important and vital because of the current circumstances through which the Palestinians and Arabs are passing. The dialogue which was conducted in the council meeting is no less important than the resolutions themselves, not only because the dialogue is the prelude to the resolutions which are the natural result of the dialogue, but also for another reason: namely, that the dialogue was a careful and systematized form of the discussions which take place among the Palestinian citizens outside the PNC, in the Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings. This means that the PNC has been the screen on which the Palestinian people's opinions and problems were drawn. Hence, the dialogue in the PNC is as worthy of consideration as the resolutions themselves.

Leaving aside the organizational issues, a quick glance at the PNC session's dialogue shows that it hinged on two major issues: The unity of the resistance factions and Palestinian cohesion with Syria and hence with the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. Polarization on these two issues is the Palestinian formula of any aspiration in any Arab state. This means that the unity of the resistance factions is the Palestinian formula for national unity inside every Arab country. Palestinian-Syrian cohesion and cohesion with the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front is the Palestinian formula for the comprehensive Arab approach toward unity, or at least toward unified Arab action.

In practice, all the issues on which dialogue was centered in the PNC revolved around this polarization. Palestinian national unity, which we would like to call unity of the groups because national unity does exist, does not only mean the unity of the guns of the fighters but also the unity of the various forms of resistance inside the occupied homeland. Each faction has its own views on resistance inside the occupied homeland; each has its own roots and basis. This makes the means to support our people's steadfastness more effective and better developed, especially from the economic and social viewpoints, such as the protection of the fighters' families from poverty as much as possible because they have the right to be protected. There is also the great aim of steadfastness; namely, keeping the national soil in the hands of its owners and foiling the plot against this soil--a plot which began, in practice, with the occupation but has appeared more clearly since As-Sadat's treason, the Camp David agreement, autonomy and the attempts to beautify this plot by the pretenders to Arab friendship from Western Europe.

Solidarity between the Palestinian revolution and Syria and between the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Palestinians is able to completely foil the plot internationally, break the intentional freezing of the Palestinian problem and, most important of all, support military action as opposed to any other form of struggle, while also benefitting from diplomatic and information methods.

These are only some of the positive elements in the PNC meetings in terms of this polarization. This shows that an analysis of the dialogue is no less important than analysis of the resolution. The resolution is the path to be followed, but the dialogue is the manifestation of the popular pulse and momentum which proceeds systematically on this path.

REACTION TO U.S. DECISION ON SALE OF AWACS

Government Statement

TA221550 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1547 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Government Press Office release]

[Text] Jerusalem, 22 Apr--The Government of Israel expresses its deep regret and unreserved opposition to the U.S. Government's decision to supply sophisticated offensive arms and intelligence planes to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia totally rejects the Camp David agreements, peace with Israel and recognition of Israel. Saudi Arabia extends massive financial aid to the terrorist organizations and it is this country from which the call for jihad against Israel emanated. The supply of sophisticated offensive arms to this country will undermine peace in the Middle East and will constitute a grave danger to the security of the State of Israel.

Tzipori Remarks

TA221944 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] In Tel Aviv, reporter Shim'on Ayalon raised the issue of the U.S. supply of AWACS to Saudi Arabia with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori:

[Begin recording] [Tzipori] The first question is: Can anybody around the world reassure us that they will be used only on the eastern front, against the Russians? I think that nobody will take this responsibility, and neither the United States. We are against the deal with Saudi Arabia of the AWACS because this is a new parameter in our region and we must not forget that from this country, Saudi Arabia--that has never had any problems with the State of Israel or any militant operation from our side against them--this is the country that the cry or the call for jihad against us came only recently. So, we cannot, let us say, just close our eyes and say: We don't care about it. It is true that maybe they will not be able to operate it in the next few years. But we intend to live here for the next thousands and thousands of years and we must think what will happen in 1985, 1986 and 1987. So, as long as the United States or the Western world has not got the power to influence Saudi Arabia, that they leave the militant way of thinking or behaving and try to come to some compromise with the existence of the State of Israel, we will object to any building of forces in Saudi Arabia.

[Ayalon] So, what does Israel plan to do?

[Answer] I think we shall try to reason with the United States. The United States is a democratic country. I think the United States is maybe the main power responsible for the Free World and the free countries around the world. And I think that from the President and down people are open to reasoning. Maybe there are some calculations, some pressure and so on. We believe that we can put enough--let us say, first of all, we can try to explain our problems and then try even to put as much pressure as possible because for us it is a question of existence. [end recording]

Appeal to 'Friends'

TA230958 Jerusalem POST in English 23 Apr 81 p 1

[By Robert Rosenberg]

[Excerpts] Israel will go "to the American people" with its protest against the U.S. administration's decision to sell AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said yesterday.

Deputy Defence Minister Tzipori yesterday said that Israel would turn to the American people, to explain the essence of the subject.

Tzipori's statement raised the spectre of a direct confrontation with the U.S. administration over the issue, which has developed into a matter of prestige for the Reagan administration's foreign policy, according to Washington sources.

Sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that Israel would "appeal to our friends" in the effort to block the sale. The sources strongly indicated that Israel would amplify its efforts in the current congressional fray over the sale, which Washington sources say will not reach Capitol Hill for approval until after the Israeli elections on June 30.

Begin-Lewis meeting

TA221621 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] We will begin our news report with the Israeli Government's announcement against the arms deal between the United States and Saudi Arabia and the meeting between Prime Minister Begin and U.S. Ambassador Lewis. Political correspondent Gad Becker begins his report with the prime minister's remarks at the end of the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Begin] We expressed our deep pain and our unreserved opposition to the supply of offensive weapons and very sophisticated surveillance aircraft to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is a country that refuses to make peace, a country that absolutely rejects the Camp David accords and supplies vast sums of money to the terrorist organizations. The supply of weapons to such a country, where the call for a jihad--a holy war--against the State of Israel originated would undermine peace in the Middle East and would post a grave threat to the security of the State of Israel.

[Becker] The prime minister was the one who raised the issue of the AWACS deal in the meeting with the U.S. ambassador. Begin again explained to Lewis Israel's position that it categorically rejects the deal and calls for renewed contemplation of it. At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Lewis was asked whether he believed he had managed to persuade the prime minister that the U.S. position was justified.

[Lewis--in English] I don't think I want to comment on whether I have ever been able to convince the prime minister of anything. He's a man who has very strong convictions. We have had an extensive discussion on this subject with the Israeli Government before, during Secretary Haig's visit and in Washington since. I think we both understand the issues involved are difficult ones for both governments.

[Becker translates the above and continues] Lewis initiated the meeting with the prime minister to deal with the situation in Lebanon, to discuss ways to curb the escalation in the area.

[Lewis--in English] I asked for the meeting in order to exchange views with the prime minister on the recent escalation of violence in Lebanon and to get his assessment, give him ours, exchange impressions of how all the parties can act to try to lower the level of violence and get back to something approximating what we had a few days ago.

[Becker translates the above and continues] Replying to a question on whether he had asked anything from the prime minister regarding Israel's activities in southern Lebanon, the U.S. ambassador said that the two sides expressed their opinion that all those involved in what is happening in Lebanon should do everything possible to stop the deterioration of the situation.

In the meeting, the prime minister explained Israel's position, its opposition to harming the civilian population and its wish to restore order as well as the need to safeguard Israel's security interests in light of, among other things, the wounding of Israeli civilians in the north. Lewis listened to Israel's assessments of the reasons and the consequences of the tension in Lebanon. It seems that the chances for a cease-fire and tranquility in the land of cedars still constitute more of a wishful thinking than a founded assessment. [end recording]

Ambassador to U.S.

TA230800 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Last night Ambassador Efrayim 'Evron met with the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, Veliotes, and the Israeli ambassador said some vigorous words of opposition to the AWACS deal. This morning Shalom Qital reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Qital] Ambassador 'Evron was surprised by the announcement by the State Department spokesman that Israel had not submitted a formal protest. The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs recalled that Israel had already expressed its oppositon to the AWACS deal several times and at least twice during the last 24 hours.

Concerning the date of the submittal to the Congress of the proposal, 'Evron was given no specific time. No date has yet been set, Veliotes said, but, with regard to the possibility that the date will be set immediately after the Israeli elections because of the administration's assessment that there will then be weaker Israeli opposition to the deal, Ambassador 'Evron rejects that possibility.

['Evron] I did tell Mr Veliotes that all the parties and all the factions in Israel have a decided opposition to the deal. He also confirmed to me that the secretary of state was also informed of this in his meetings with the various people he met, including those apart from the government representatives. They have no doubt today about the unanimity of views in Israel concerning that deal.

[Qital] Mr 'Evron, over and beyond the dissatisfaction, what does Israel expect the administration to do now, after the announcement about the intention to sell the AWACS together with the offensive equipment to Saudi Arabia has been published?

['Evron] That it should reconsider its decision and retract it.

Peres Comments

TA221948 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Reacting to the U.S. administration decision to sell AWACS to Saudi Arabia, the Labor Party chairman today said that the Reagan administration's decision entails a grave danger to the peace process and to security in the region. Peres said that whoever thinks that elections in Israel may be exploited to sell offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia is deluding himself. He added that there would always be sharp opposition in Israel to such a decision.

POST Analysis

TA231002 Jerusalem POST in English 23 Apr 81 pp 1, 2

[Analysis by military correspondent Hirsh Goodman: "AWACS Bodes Unprecedented Problems"]

[Text] The supply of AWACS ultrasophisticated airborne warning and control aircraft to Saudi Arabia by the United States may be a watershed in the until-now cordial relations between Israel and the new Reagan administration, according to senior sources here.

Militarily, AWACS in Saudi hands will present Israel with unprecedented problems. Regardless of safeguards, these planes will provide Saudi Arabia with detailed and direct information on all air traffic in this country. They are capable of picking up and jamming most Israel Defence Forces radio communications and can detect major troop movements.

Israel will be forced to invest huge amounts of money from an already over-extended military budget to counter the new threat from some of the world's most sophisticated military gadgetry. NATO only received its first AWACS during the past month.

Regardless of Saudi Arabia's pro-Western orientation, Israel will have to assume that the intelligence being gathered by the AWACS planes will be passed on to confrontation states, such as Jordan and Iraq, and that in time of conflict Saudi Arabia will pass on vital intelligence until now unobtainable to Israel's enemies.

The AWACS issue is one of the few major topics over which there is no disagreement between the various branches of government. The prime minister's office, the Foreign Ministry and the military are all convinced that everything possible must be done to stop the sale, even at the expense of harming relations with the United States.

The danger to Israel's security, officials say, is too great to allow internal or external political considerations to interfere with opposition to the sale. The government was prepared to make low-key protestations against the American decision to upgrade the 62 F-15 interceptor jets Saudi Arabia has on order with an offensive capability, and was ready to agree to offset this threat by accepting $600 million from the United States on easy terms.

However, no deal will be struck over the AWACS. Israel has officially turned down an American request to come and test the AWACS, on the grounds that this would constitute de facto admission that Israel thought the deal was acceptable.

Officials here believe that there is a fair to good chance of the deal being "shot down" in the U.S. Senate. Over 50 senators, including some key Reagan supporters, are on record as being opposed to the deal.

The officials believe that the opposition is not primarily out of concern for Israel's security, but because there is a general reluctance to allow the West's most secret and sophisticated weapons to be deployed in a basically unstable Arab state. Not only is the example of Iran fresh in the minds of the senators, officials here claim, but Saudi Arabia also has deep connections with such pro-Soviet countries as Iraq, and the possibility of Iraqi technicians being made privy to the plane's secrets is not unlikely.

Officials here see the supply of AWACS to Saudi Arabia as a destabilizing influence in the Middle East. In the event of any Israeli pre-emptive attack, even excluding Saudi Arabia, one of the first targets would be the AWACS, because of its capacity to eliminate the element of surprise. The shooting down of the aircraft, over Saudi Arabian territory, would have major ramifications especially as there are likely to be American crew members aboard.

Israel has yet to define the precise course of action it will take to block the sale. Yesterday's public statements by Defence Minister Menahem Begin, Deputy Defence Minister Mordekhay Tzipori and Begin's meeting with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis were intended to make it clear that the government is united in opposition to the sale. A major quarrel between the United States and Israel--the first since Washington's "re-assessment" during the interim agreement negotiations on the Siani in 1975--is on the cards.

There seems to be a clear unity of opinion on the need to fight the decision. The Labor opposition has called for an emergency debate on the subject in the Knesset, and Labor candidates for senior defence posts have come out clearly against the sale.

A sharp line has been drawn here between understanding of the American interest in supplying countries it considers its allies in the Middle East with modern weapons, and the specific supply of the AWACS to Saudi Arabia. There is, one official said, a wide range of alternative airborne early-warning and radar systems the Americans could supply, citing the Hawkeye (currently in use with the Israel Air Force) as one example.

The unfortunate lesson of the entire episode, he concluded, was that Washington, despite opposition in the military, in the Senate and in the State Department, seems incapable of refusing any request from Saudi Arabia, however preposterous.

REPORTAGE ON LEBANON-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

Begin-Haddad Meeting

TA231200 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan today met with the commander of the Christian militia, Maj Sa'd Haddad, in the defense minister's office in Tel Aviv. At the end of that meeting the prime minister told military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that he and Major Haddad had agreed that in the future everyone would avoid harming the UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon and would make the greatest effort to prevent any harm from coming to the civilian population.

[Tal] Major Haddad came to the defense minister's office from Haifa's Rambam Hospital and the discussion with him was intended to clarify the main points of the policy decided upon by the government in connection with southern Lebanon: calming the atmosphere and lowering the profile. Haddad's share in the activity in southern Lebanon against the terrorists is well known and the incidents that have occurred between him and the UNIFIL troops because of UNIFIL's role in bringing the Lebanese Army into the enclave area also is well known. The day before yesterday the prime minister met with the UNIFIL commander and after the latter complained that his troops were being attacked. He was promised that the matter would be given suitable treatment. At the end of today's meeting with Major Haddad, the prime minister reported on that treatment:

[Begin recording] [Begin] We had a very important, good conversation with Major Haddad, a brave man who should be honored by all men of good will, who is devotedly defending his people, and it was agreed between us that any harm to the international force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, should be avoided and that a supreme effort should be made to insure that no harm be done the civilian population. I want to emphasize that we respect Major Haddad very much because of his bravery and his loyalty to his people. We want to hope that the situation will calm down and all the elements will work toward a complete cease-fire in Lebanon and we are interested in this, that Lebanon should be free and independent. [end recording]

[Tal] The explanation of the policy of lowering the profile in southern Lebanon to Haddad today came after matters were yesterday also brought to the knowledge of the commanders of the militia in the enclave, who were substituting for Haddad in his absence. However, sources in the north have criticized this policy, which, according to them, is only a superficial short-term solution which will leave the initiative in the terrorists' hands and permit them to heat up the front from time to time when convenient for them without them taking too many risks themselves.

IDF Sinks Vessels

TA230907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Last night IDF forces were in action along the Tyre and Sidon coasts and sank terrorist vessels. This has been reported by the IDF spokesman.

Opinion in North

TA230802 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Sources in the north say that the decision to calm down the situation in southern Lebanon is only a short-term solution and leaves the initiative in the hands of the terrorists. The terrorists will take advantage of the situation to heat up the front from time to time, when they choose, without taking too many risks. The same sources told military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the council of Galilee settlements will shortly meet with the prime minister and explain to him that it regards the violation of the status quo in southern Lebanon with great gravity. The head of the upper Galilee regional council told our correspondent that the situation in the north must not be allowed to again become a war of attrition.

'Terrorist' Rearming

TA211830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Concerning the events in southern Lebanon, it has been reported that the terrorist organizations, particularly Fatah and the Palestinian Liberation Front, have recently completed rearming with modern weapons. Over the last few weeks the organizations have absorbed several dozen modern BM21 Katyusha launchers made in the Soviet Union. Each one of these launchers is capable of firing 40 shells at once. Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a says that the terrorists have significantly improved their firepower recently and have made a more consolidated deployment near southern Lebanon, with Syrian help.

POLL SHOWS LIKUD CLOSING GAP WITH ALIGNMENT

TA171221 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] In April, too, as in the months before, the Alignment continues to lead but an analysis of the trends in the last 6 months indicates a gradual closure of the gap between the Alignment and the Likud.

A similar trend also exists with regard to preference for premiership. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has won the largest support but at the same time an increase has been marked in Prime Minister Menahem Begin's appeal. Again, it should be emphasized that the ratio of abstentions is high.

Question: Had elections been held today, for whom would you have voted? (answers in percentages)

Date	Likud	Alignment	Other parties	No opinion
Nov 80	9	35	10	46
Dec 80	11	39	13	37
Feb 81	13	34	17	36
Mar-Apr 81	15	25	13	47

Question: Whom would you like to see as the next prime minister?

Date	Begin	Peres	Other candidates	No opinion
Jan 81	14	24	38	24
Feb 81	16	25	36	23
Mar 81	17	25	35	23

These findings emerge from the regular survey conducted by the Israeli Institute for Applied Social Research and the Hebrew University's Institute for Communications. The questions were presented by the YEDI'OT AHARONOT staff.

The poll also showed that the resignation of Minister Hurvitz and the appointment of Aridor as finance minister, coupled with the mesures the latter has taken, have created a feeling of relief among the public and the general mood has improved.

MONTHLY POLL SHOWS ALIGNMENT LEADS LIKUD 46-34

TA211252 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] If the Knesset elections were held in the second week of April, following the official announcement about the establishment of MK Moshe Dayan's new list and following the Histadrut elections, the leading lists would obtain the following results: Alignment, 46 seats; Likud, 34; NRP, 8; and Dayan's Telem, 7. The remaining 25 seats would be distributed among the other existing lists, including Tehiya, Agudat Yisra'el and RAKAH. These are the findings of the monthly public opinion poll conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemah for MINITIN and KSAFIM, both monthly magazines.

The April poll was conducted after the Alignment's shadow cabinet was announced and it involved a representative cross section of 1,242 people.

A comparison between the findings of the March and the April polls indicates that the Alignment and the NRP achieved the same results in both, while the Likud's electoral power has risen by three mandates and Telem's electoral potential has further declined by another four mandates.

Generally, the latest poll thus indicates a halt in the Alignment's decline, which amounts to an overall loss of 10 seats since the beginning of the year, a continued rise for the Likud, about 16 seats since the beginning of the year, and a further drop in the potential of Dayan's list by some 10 seats since January. The "floating votes" have declined to 20 percent.

Another standard question in Dr Mina Tzemah's KSAFIM poll was: "Who, in your opinion, is the most suitable candidate for the premiership?" The responses were as follows: Menahem Begin, 28.2 [percent]; Shim'on Peres, 25.5; Yitzhaq Rabin, 12.8; Moshe Dayan, 4.8; others, 7.0; and no reply, 21.7.

RAFI MAJORITY VOTES TO JOIN DAYAN'S LIST

TA222107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] By majority vote RAFI's executive decided a short while ago to join Moshe Dayan's list. Correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the decision was made after 4 hours of stormy discussions. The opponents to the merger have decided to withdraw from RAFI and set up an independent list. They are headed by Mr Yitzhaq Peretz.

ALGERIA

FATAH LEADERS MEET WITH FLN OFFICIALS 22 APR

22 Apr Arrival

LD221212 Algiers APS in English 1108 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 22 Apr (APS)--Mr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], CC member of the "Fatah" movement and commander in chief of the Palestinian armed forces arrived here yesterday to inform the Algerian officials of the party and the state on the last developments in south-Lebanon. During his stay in Algeria, the Palestinian leader will have talks with the Algerian officials on Algerian-Palestinian relations and the escalation of imperiali-Zionist manoeuvres aimed at liquidating the Palestinian just cause.

In a short statement upon arrival, Mr Abu Jihad underlined the important role Algeria plays towards the just cause of the Palestinian people, notably her support to the struggle led by this people to recover his legitimate rights. The Palestinian leader said his visit stands within the framework of meetings and contacts between the two sides.

These contacts aim at coordinating efforts and reinforcing Arab solidarity in view to oppose all manoeuvres and plots threatening the Arab nation, at a moment when the Zionist imperialist and reactionary forces are joining their efforts to attempt to [eliminate] the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement.

Talks Begin

LD221416 Algiers APS in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Talks between an FLN delegation led by Member of the Central Committee and Chairman of the party's Foreign Relations Committee Slimane Hoffmann and a Palestinian delegation led by member of the Fatah Central Committee and deputy commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, began in Algiers today.

The talks centered primarily on the developments in the Palestinian question and the current situation in the region in the light of the repeated Zionist-isolationist aggressions against southern Lebanon, which aim at the liquidation of the just Palestinian question and at striking at the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement.

The Palestinian delegation arrived in Algeria yesterday and was welcomed at the Houari Boumediene International Airport by Brother Hoffmann and a number of Algerian officials.

Official Reception

LD230134 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0001 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Brother Mohammed Shrif Maa'diyah, official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, yesterday at (Zuhur) Yusuf Palace received a Palestinian delegation led by Mr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], member of the Fatah central committee and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and Mr Abu al-Walid, member of the Fatah Central Committee and director of central operations of the Palestinan revolution.

Having reviewed the extremely good Algerian-Palestinian relations, the two sides analyzed the latest developments in the Arab arena, and in particular southern Lebanon, in the wake of the increase in the scope of Zionist aggression against Lebanon. The two sides also discussed the plots being woven by imperialism and Zionism for the liquidation of the Palestinian revolution and for striking at the Arab progressive forces, and consequently for impeding the revolutionary tide in the Arab world.

In this respect the two sides stressed the maneuvers being carried out by Arab reaction in implementing one of the (?links) of world imperialism in the Arab region.

Having noted the identical viewpoints on the issues raised, the two sides agreed on the need for more coordination of efforts being exerted so as to confront all plots and maneuvers directed against the Arab peoples.

The meeting was attended by members of the Central Committee, [name indistinct] Osman, chairman of the party Foreign Relations Committee; Kamal Bushalah, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee; and Abdul Qadir Bin (?Kraf), head of the Department for Relations With Popular Organizations.

LIBYA

HUNGARIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD221044 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Apr (JANA)--The Hungarian Defense Minister, Army Gen Lajos Czinege, arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah where he was met at Tripoli airport by Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, and a number of senior Libyan officers.

On his arrival the Hungarian minister made a statement to JANA in which he said that his visit falls within the framework of meetings among friends and will provide an opportunity for the further development of relations between our two peoples. The minister praised the achievements of the Libyan Arab people and their great accomplishments in their land. He also praised Libya's principled stands against the plots of imperialism and reaction. He denounced the imperialist endeavors directed against the achievements of the Libyan people.

In conclusion he said that there were some who are perturbed by the development and progress Jamahiriyah has made because the Great 1 September Revolution has always taken bold stands and placed the interests of the Libyan and Arab peoples in general and their ambitions above everything else.

Jabir Reception

LD222350 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, general commander of the armed forces, this evening received the Hungarian Defense Minister, Gen Lajos Czinege. During the meeting, talks on the consolidation and development of cooperation between the two friendly peoples were discussed.

ROMANIA-LIBYA COMMISSION TALKS BEGIN 22 APR

AU221909 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1800 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Apr (AGERPRES)--The eighth session of the Joint Romanian-Libyan Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation started in Tripoli. Ion Patan, deputy prime minister and minister of technico-material supply and control of fixed assets administration, chairman for Romania of the joint commission, had meetings on the occasion with 'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar, secretary of the General People's Committee on Petroleum, chairman for Libya of the joint commission, as well as with executives of other Libyan economic departments. Questions of development of the economic and technical cooperation between Romania and Libya were discussed on the occasion.

CSSR'S STEPAN RECEIVED BY AL-QADHDHAFI 17 APR

AU211729 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 17 Apr 81 p 11

[CTK report: "Contribution of Students Movement to the Struggle for Peace"]

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Apr (CTK)--In Tripoli on Thursday Libya's highest representative, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, received Miroslav Stepan, chairman of the International Students Union. Al-Qadhdhafi highly valued the contribution of the progressive international revolutionary students movement to the world struggle against imperialism, to the development of the revolutionary process in various parts of the world and to the struggle for lasting peace and social progress. At the close of its stay in Libya, the delegation of the International Students Union assessed, with the General Union of Libyan Students, a joint project of student actions and the preparation of an international students conference on just utilization of natural resources in the developing countries.

MAURITANIA

KAMPUCHEAN SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ENDS VISIT

LD222328 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Mrs Ieng Thirith, minister of social affairs of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, today ended her visit to our country, which began last Monday. On leaving the capital's airport this afternoon, Mrs Ieng Thirith was seen off by a Mauritanian delegation led by Yahya Ould Menkouss, minister of employment and cadre training.

During her stay in Nouakchott, Mrs Thirith was received by Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, and by Prime Minister Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara. She also had talks with other Mauritanian officials.

In a statement to the national press after her meeting this morning with his excellency the head of state, Mrs Ieng expressed satisfaction with the feelings of solidarity and friendship she met with on the part of the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, and on the part of the prime minister, and also on the part of all the Mauritanian officials.

Mrs Ieng said that the war of annihilation to which the Kampuchean people had been subjected for more than 2 years at the hands of the Hanoi authorities has so far caused the death of more than 2.5 million Kampucheans. [Words indistinct] three kinds of weapons used by the [word indistinct] Vietnamese for this purpose, namely [word indistinct], bullets, and chemical products and poison gases. The minister of social affairs of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea said that all peace-loving states and states hostile to colonialism and expansionism have always sided with the just Kampuchean cause. They have all called for convening an international conference to solve this problem through free elections under the patronage of the United Nations in order to enable the Kampuchean people to exercise self-determination and to choose its own authority in complete liberty.

Mrs Ieng finally stressed that the Kampuchean people who believe in the just nature of their cause and who relied on themselves and their many friends throughout the world, will surely triumph over all their enemies.

As for Mauritanian-Kampuchean relations, she said they will certainly witness a fresh impulse after the national liberation of Kampuchea from the yoke of Vietnamese hegemony and expansionism. Mrs Ieng said the brave Kampuchean people had scored great victories during this short period, which signifies that the valiant Kampuchean combatants will move, next autumn, from the positions of defense to those of attack.

MOROCCO

IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON 1-DAY VISIT

JN221454 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Casablanca, 22 Apr (INA)--Iraqi Vice-President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf arrived here today on a one-day visit to Morocco. An official reception was accorded to Mr Ma'ruf and his accompanying delegation led by Moroccan prime minister, Maati Bouabid and other officials.

Mr Ma'ruf conveyed through Mr Bouabid greetings from President Saddam Husayn to King Hassan II of Morocco for Morocco's stand of support for Iraq in its just war against the Persian enemy.

Moroccan prime minister reiterated his country's support for Iraq in its just war to restore its national and pan-Arab rights.

The Iraqi official is scheduled to leave tomorrow for Senegal on a several days official visit. In Dakar, Mr Ma'ruf will hold talks with Senegalese officials on bilateral co-operation in various domains.

SUDAN

MATERIALS ON VISIT OF UGANDA'S PRESIDENT OBOTE

SUNA Interview

JN221906 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Mustafa Amin, G. manager SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA), today interviewed President Milton Obote. They met ten years ago a few months after the president was overthrown by Idi Amin. President Obote now recalling the past ten years.

SUNA: Q. President..ten years ago, you told me of your determination of going back to Uganda. When I published that statement many people did not believe it. What made you so sure of your coming back to Uganda?

A. Ten years ago I was not deceiving my self when I told you that I would be able to go back. When I made that statement I was convinced that the majority of the Ugandan people were aware of the good work my government have done to them, things they felt in their day to day life, security, prosperity, rural water supply, social services, hospitals, medicines, mother and children care, schools and good roads, etc. Uganda image in Africa was good. All in all I believed that the Amin regime would never be able to wipe out what my government did to the people. The more years go the more younger people come up and participate, but I did not [word indistinct] the younger generation is going to react. We found later that the matured young people of Ugandan have grown to accept and preach for our policies in Uganda. Then came up the fact that the youth of Uganda were the people who made my party win the latest elections.

Q. What are the main targets of your policy after winning the elections?

A. Now my self, government and party see our responsibilities very clearly. Our main aim is national building to be carried through policies in which the people, all the people of Uganda have the opportunity to use their abilities and energies for the good of their families and the nation.

Q. What are your plans to bridge the 10-year gap?

A. A decade elapsed and many things happened in Uganda, Africa and the world. New developed ideas have come to being, so we see it our responsibility to grasp what is happening and make contacts with neighbours and friends to learn from their experience and where possible work out joint projects with them, and that is one of the reasons that is why we are visiting the Sudan. In the last ten years Sudan has not been standing still

It has developed tremendously in several fields socially, economically, politically and at the same time is doing all it could in maintaining stability and security and peace in Africa. We have come to gain from Sudan experience in all fields.

Q. How do you see the future cooperation of the East African region?

A. I remain a pan-African nationalist but in practical terms. I am because of the present problems and future of Africa. I am a great believer in regional cooperation, and in Uganda are determined and committed more than ever to work with our brothers in the region to make real the prosperity and stability hope that our people aspire.

Q. What is your evaluation of summit meeting in the region?

A. Meetings between leaders are important provided that they should bring forth practical measures that will benefit the region with stability, trade exchange and cultural links.

Q. After all what happened in Uganda do you see an imminent reconcilation?

A. Yes, we believe in reconciliation and are now preparing steps in this direction. There is going to be an amnesty and a call for all Ugandans to return home and use their abilities and energies with their brothers and sisters to rebuild the nation. Sudan made history by the courageous reconciliation and is steadily walking the pass of national unity. We will benefit very much from his experience.

Q. There are reports of several acts of violence in the capital and rural areas. What are the facts Mr President?

A. Insecurity in Uganda is presently caused by persons who were rejected by the people of Uganda in the elections. I had men within my leadership who fought for the liberation of their country from Amin's regime. I played no part in the interim government which was established after that war. I am in the government because of the votes of the Ugandan people. Whoever is engaged in causing instability in Uganda today must be clearly a person who is a fascist.

Q. What help are you receiving to rebuild Uganda and from where?

A. We are receiving help from Africa and many parts of the world to rebuild Uganda which suffered tremendously for the last 10 years. By that assistance we feel more confident and appreciate it very much and recognize it as an act of confidence in Uganda and the future and an act of humanity that knows no limits or bounderies to extend help to those in need to rise up more quickly than we would have done if we were left alone, and that is why we are appealing for more.

Q. What do you say to people who talk about revenge?

A. It is a well known fact that Amin's regime ruled through terror using a section of the people against others. In every area of Uganda there are families who have lost some of their members, killed by that regime. Some families were wiped altogether, many uprooted, tortured, dismembered all as a result of a rein of terror. Our plan and aim for reconciliation is to stop the killing to spare the lives of Ugandans. We need all of them to build the nation. Our motto must be: look to the future and not to the past and recheck any ideas of revenge. The policy applies to tribal groupings and religious faith.

I strongly believe that any Ugandan who is prosecuted because of his religion or tribe in our time will represent a failure of our policy. We have declared a very firm stand to ensure that there is full religious freedom in Uganda and that nobody is harrassed because of his religion or tribe. I am sure that with the confidence the people have in their elected leaders we will rebuild the nation.

Talks Held

JN221143 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Apr (SUNA)--President Numayri has reiterated that Sudan and Uganda are jointly endeavoring to spread stability and peace in the area and in the African Continent, guided by the OAU Charter. Addressing the opening session of the official talks between Sudan and Uganda yesterday, President Numayri said that Sudan and Uganda are exerting joint efforts to create a regional cooperation which would not only benefit the region's peoples but would also cover all the African states.

Welcoming the Ugandan president, President Numayri said that Sudan and Uganda are closely linked with the noblest ties. He added that the two countries believe that their cooperation constitutes an important step along the road of reaching an ideal formula for the African peoples' cooperation. Within the context of this cooperation, President Numayri added, the two countries believe in the Arab-African peoples' cooperation to achieve liberation from the claws of the racist expansionist colonialism in South Africa and occupied Palestine.

Ugandan President Obote said that Uganda and Sudan support the struggle of the Palestinian and South African peoples. He reiterated the principal features of his policy in effecting national reconciliation among the Ugandan people and promoting friendship with all countries, particularly those bordering Uganda. He asserted that Uganda is now enjoying full stability and is aiming to rebuild its economy with swift and clear-cut steps. He expressed his thanks to President Numayri and to the Sudanese Government and people for the warm hospitality accorded him, asserting the strong ties that bind the two peoples in all fields.

The two presidents discussed the issue of restoring peace and stability to Uganda based on Sudan's experience in national reconciliation. Sudan proposed a number of plans to help Uganda in this respect. President Obote disclosed his intention to announce a general amnesty and to call Ugandans in exile back to contribute to the development of their country. It was agreed that President Numayri would seek financial support from the Arab Islamic countries to help Uganda in rebuilding itself as a modern state.

During the talks, President Numayri said that he had accepted Ugandan President Obote's invitation to a tripartite summit between the presidents of Sudan, Uganda and Zaire to discuss border issues. The place of the summit will be fixed later. President Numayri, however, proposed a preparatory meeting to be held either at the ministerial or ambassadorial level before the summit meeting. The two presidents expressed their satisfaction for the tasks performed by the border committee between Sudan and Uganda.

A press communique will be issued here today on the Sudanese-Ugandan talks. The communique will handle the various topics that had been discussed concerning the cooperation between the two countries. A responsible Sudanese source has affirmed that the two sides' views were completely identical concerning the contents of the communique.

22 Apr Departure

JN221153 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Apr (SUNA)--Ugandan President Milton Obote left Khartoum at 1130 today at the end of a 1-day visit to Sudan during which he held talks with President Numayri on bilateral relations and on African and international relations. The Ugandan president was seen off at the airport by President Ja'far Numayri and top officials. Prior to his departure, the Ugandan president visited the Sudanese War College, where he was received by First Vice President and Defense Minister 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil. The joint communique on Ugandan President Milton Obote's 1-day visit to Sudan will simultaneously be released in Khartoum and Kampala at 1700 GMT.

Muhammad Mirghani, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Sam Tewungwa, Ugandan minister of regional cooperation and acting foreign minister, this morning initialed the joint communique.

Joint Statement

JN221932 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] The joint statement on His Excellency Ugandan President Milton Obote's visit to the Democratic Republic of the Sudan:

Upon the gracious invitation of His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, His Excdllency Dr Milton Obote, president of the Republic of Uganda, paid a visit to the Democratic Republic of the Sudan from 21 to 22 April 1981. The Ugandan leader's visit to Sudan came to further express the bonds of fraternity and lasting friendship that have always characterized the relations between the two fraternal peoples. This visit also came to give a new impetus to bilateral relations.

The two leaders held comprehensive and constructive talks on means of further strengthening the historical bonds and the good-neighbor relations between the two fraternal countries. The two leaders also exchanged viewpoints on the various regional, continental and international issues of mutual interest. Their viewpoints in this regard were identical. The joint talks were held in an atmosphere of amity and mutual understanding. In addition to the two leaders, the talks were also attended by ranking officials from the two countries.

His Excellency President Obote expressed his deep appreciation for President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri's aid to the Ugandan people in their time of ordeal. His excellency the Ugandan president briefed his excellency the Sudanese president on the Ugandan Government's policy as well as on the plans and the projects of the Ugandan People's Conference Party, which aim at building a unified, strong Uganda.

His Excellency President Numayri expressed his deep appreciation and support for the efforts of the Ugandan people and government to spread stability and national unity and to rebuild their country.

While reviewing bilateral relations, the two leaders expressed their satisfaction with the mutual desire to further deepen and promote these relations and to further widen joint cooperation in various spheres and to hold consultations and exchange viewpoints on the various issues on all levels. In this regard, the two leaders agreed to form a joint committee to discuss the possibilities for widening the various spheres of joint cooperation and to establish all means to strengthen this cooperation. The two leaders underlined the importance of drawing up plans for different cultural and regional projects that shall be given prominence and special care by the regional and international financing organizations and help from the friendly states.

The two presidents reviewed the contemporary developments in the region in light of the consultations and discussions that have recently taken place among the leaders of the Middle East and African states. The two leaders agreed in this regard that such contacts and consultations will serve the sought objectives of the peoples of the region and will also serve the objectives of peace, stability and joint cooperation in the region, the African Continent and the whole world. The two leaders agreed that the Ugandan president's visit to the Democratic Republic of the Sudan will give a new impetus to the fraternal bilateral relations.

His Excellency Ugandan President Milton Obote expressed his great gratitude and appreciation for the warm welcome accorded him and the great hospitality that was shown by His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and the Sudanese Government and people. His Excellency the Ugandan President Dr Milton Obote extended an invitation to His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to visit Uganda, which President Numayri accepted with great appreciation and agreed to fix its date later.

Khartoum, 22 April 1981

MATERIALS ON END OF DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Views on Issues, Cooperation

JN211543 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Apr (SUNA)--Djibouti President Hassan Gouled has stated that the joint ministerial committee that was established last June between Djibouti and Ethiopia has continued its work and has concluded several agreements between the countries.

President Gouled was replying to a question from SUNA yesterday on the progress of the Djibouti-Ethiopian joint committee at the end of the 3-day visit the Djibouti president made to Sudan.

President Gouled said that the assistance provided by Arab countries to his country has had a big effect in protecting Djibouti's independence. President Gouled thanked the Arab countries for this assistance and said that it has enabled his country to carry out several economic and social projects. President Gouled was replying to a question from SUNA yesterday on Arab assistance to Djibouti.

President Gouled stressed that the Red Sea must remain an area of peace, removed from the influence of the big powers. He added: The countries in the area are capable of resolving their differences by negotiations and peaceful means in order to achieve security and stability in the area. President Gouled said that it is dangerous to minimize the role that the OAU can assume in settling the problems from which Africa is suffering. He added that his country believes that the OAU is the best instrument for settling differences among the member states.

In reply to questions from SUNA, the Djibouti president said that African-Arab cooperation has progressed a lot and has achieved development of this cooperation so that the great aspirations which the Arab and African worlds are pinning on this cooperation may be achieved.

On relations between the Djibouti and Sudanese peoples, President Gouled explained that they are deeply rooted in history and must develop and progress more and more for the good of the Arab, Islamic and African nations.

On cooperation between France and his country, President Gouled said that immediately after its independence, Djibouti signed several agreements for technical cooperation with France, including an agreement for the training of the Djibouti Armed Forces.

20 Apr Departure

JN200950 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA)--President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti and his accompanying delegation left here today for home after concluding a three day visit to Sudan during which he held talks with President Numayri on the international regional and bilateral relation. Gouled was seen off at Khartoum airport by President Ja'far Numayri, Vice President Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil and high ranking officials.

ETHIOPIA

SWAPO OFFICE ISSUES STATEMENT ON ANNIVERSARY

LD191908 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 19 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Today marks the 21st anniversary of the founding of the SWAPO. In a press statement marking the day, the SWAPO office in Addis Ababa said that in spite of the strict and brutal measures being taken by the racist Pretoria regime, SWAPO continues to grow ever stronger. The statement added that the racist-imperialist axis will not succeed in their maneuver to undermine SWAPO. In addition, it said the changed situation in the southern subcontinent creates new possibilities for the intensification of the liberation struggle in Namibia and South Africa itself.

The statement also said that SWAPO continues to enjoy support not only from the African peoples but also from the socialist entity, which is the natural ally of liberation movements.

BRIEFS

SOVIET DELEGATION VISIT--A Soviet delegation led by (Yuriy Delgalfov), the secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee, arrived in Addis Ababa today on a weeklong visit to Ethiopia. While in Ethiopia the delegation will hold talks on bilateral relations with officials of the revolutionary Ethiopian Youth Association. [Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 16 Apr 81 LD/EA]

KENYA

PRESIDENT MOI 'PURGING' DISGRUNTLED ELEMENTS

LD222258 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi said today that he was in the process of purging anti-nyayo [footsteps] elements in order to safeguard the country's peace and stability. We also called on such people to mend their ways before he pounced on them.

The president, who was addressing a mammoth crowd from Kirinyaga District while conducting a fund-raising drive in aid of the Kirinyaga Technical Institute, cautioned leaders who are misinterpreting the nyayo philosophy with the ultimate aim of serving and promoting their personal interests.

Saying that peace was of paramount importance if the country's development was to be maintained, the president called for an end to petty leadership squabbles and divisions based on personality differences. He stressed that the nyayo philosophy was the country's national shield. He said there should not be infighting and political rivalry since their evils hamper development and even jeopardize the lives of innocent children.

President Moi was assured by Kirinyaga Members of Parliament Mr Stephen Kirago, Mr Nahashon Njuno and Mr James Njiru that they would bury their political hatchets and unite, as each one of them was given a chance by the provincial commissioner for Central, Mr David Musila, to greet the crowd at the rally.

OFFICIAL REFUSES DISCUSSION ON U.S. DEFENSE ACCORD

LD222144 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 22 Apr 81 EA

[From "Today in Parliament" program]

[Excerpt] An assistant minister in the office of the president, Mr Justus Ole Tipis, told the house that it was not in the interest of the nation to discuss openly facility or defense arrangement-s with America or other friendly countries. Mr Tipis explained that an agreement reached between Kenya and America is designed to safeguard the country's integrity and independence.

The assistant minister was responding to a question from the member for Wundanyi, Mr Mashengu Mwachofi. The member had wanted the minister to report to the house details of the agreement between Kenya and America whereby America would be allowed military facilities in Mombasa.

SOMALIA

VICE PRESIDENT, DELEGATION RETURN FROM IRAQ

LD222322 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 22 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpt] Challe Brig Gen Ismail Ali Abokor, chairman of the Somali Revolutionary Council Political Committee and the Somali Democratic Republic's second vice president, and a delegation he was leading returned from Iraq today.

Challe Ismail Ali Abokor told reporters at the airport that while in Iraq he delivered a message from President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre to the president of the Republic of Iraq, Mr Saddam Husayn, and also held bilateral talks with senior Iraqi officials to strenthen the existing cordial relationship between the two countries.

UGANDA

INFORMATION MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH SOVIET ENVOY

LD221732 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 22 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Uganda, Mr Bukin, has called on the minister of information and broadcasting, Dr David Anyoti, in his office in Kampala. They discussed matters of mutual interest including the exchange of visits of mass media personnel between the two countries. The meeting was also attended by the assistant secretary in the Soviet Embassy, Mr (Vilantov), and the director of information, Mr (Nathan Katenyu).

FIVE DEATHS REPORTED IN AMBUSH EAST OF KAMPALA

AB231221 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Kampala, Apr 23 (AFP)--Five people, three of them army officers, were killed in an ambush in the town of Mukono, 15 miles east of Kampala, on Tuesday, it was announced here today.

A statement from the Internal Affairs Ministry broadcast by Uganda radio said bandits--the official term for underground movements seeking to overthrow President Milton Obote's government--shot at two vehicles.

One was an army Landrover carrying the three security officers who were killed instantly. Two other officers were wounded by gunshots, one in the leg and the other in the chest.

The two civilian casualties were in a passing lorry also shot at by the bandits, the government statement said. No arrests were reported. The incident took place about five miles (eight kms) from where an electricity powerline to the capital and western Uganda was blown up last month, blacking out the city for more than a week.

CHAD

FAN OFFICIAL DENIES WANTING ANY NEW GROUP

AB221529 Paris AFP in French 1200 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Lagos, 22 Apr (AFP)--Mr Mahamat Saleh Ahmat, external relations commissioner of the FAN, emphasized in Lagos on Tuesday that he does not envisage the formation of any new political group in Chad.

The FAN executive member, who announced his decision on 16 April to withdraw his confidence in FAN leader Hissein Habre, stated in a press briefing during a short stopover in Lagos that he neither intends nor desires to establish with anyone a new Chadian faction, for Chad is sick of factions, he said.

Nobody can sway me from my profound belief in continuing the fight for the just, immortal cause of a free, sovereign, independent and united Chad, Mr Mahamat Saleh Ahmat added.

The FAN external relations commissioner also reaffirmed the common stand taken by 23 leaders of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Chad (MPLT), the Western Armed Forces (FAO), and the FAN to withdraw their confidence and support for Hissein Habre, leader of the FAN. This decision was announced in Lagos in a communique signed by Mr Batran Adam Idriss (president of the MPLT), Mr Moustapha Maitchari (president of FAO) and Mr Mahamat Saleh Ahmat.

However, in a communique published last Sunday in Khartoum (Sudan), the Executive Committee of the MPLT stressed that the position taken by Mr Batran Adam Idriss, who is wanted for high treason, does not bind the movement, which has recently appointed Mr Lol Mahamat Choua to rebuild the MPLT. The same movement also affirms that Mr Moustapha Maitchari's position is also not binding on the FAO.

ZAIRE

NEW FIRST STATE COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT

AB221835 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Citizen Nsinga Udjuu Ongwakebi Untube has succeeded Citizen Nguza Karl-I-Bond, who deserted his position as first state commissioner. The new first state commissioner is therefore already well known. He will also continue to hold his position of first vice president of the bureau of the MPR Central Committee. Citizen Nsinga Udjuu Ongwakebi Untube is known for his firmness and his dedication to work. He is not the type of person who would rely on foreign powers to impose himself. He serves only his country, his party and his people.

In 1966, he was secretary of state for internal affairs and from 1966 to 1967 secretary of state for juscice. He was a member of the Congolese delegation to the meeting to settle the Belgium-Congo misunderstanding at Brussels. From 1967 to 1968 he was minister of justice and speaker at the first national seminar for MPR cadres. From 1968 to 1970 he was minister of state for internal affairs, charged with coordination of political, administrative and judicial affairs. In 1970, he was president of the first extraordinary congress of the MPR, minister of state at the presidency and delegate in [word indistinct], president of the permanent political commission of the (Lajo) of the MPR, Kinshasa. He became president of the [word indistinct] in 1978. In 1980 he became a member of the MPR Central Committee and was also appointed first vice president of the bureau of the MPR Central Committee.

BENIN

PRESIDENT OPENS SPECIAL PARTY COMMITTEE SESSION

AB222037 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin [PRPB] has been holding a special session in Cotonou since this morning. In declaring the meeting open, President Kerekou, chairman of the committee, said the meeting will essentially be devoted to matters related to the party's internal structure, how to organize the masses, and as such, it is an important one. Listen to the president:

[Begin recording] We are here today for a special sessio sentially devoted to a thorough examination of some matters related not only to the internal life of this mass organization. On this occasion, and first of all, we wish to welcome you to our second session meeting. We wish to inform you that this meeting, in our view, is of great importance to the consolidation, the strengthening and the continued growth of our revolutionary course of national liberation launched on 26 October 1972. In fact, most of the items on our meeting's agenda deal with the broadening of the base of our party at all levels, that is, first, examination of applications for admission into the PRPB; second, the reelection of members of the provincial secretariats of the PRPB; third, ways of establishing the [word indistinct]; fourth and finally, how to organize Beninese communities abroad.

To join action to words, the Political Bureau of the PRPB Central Committee decided to summon this special session with the aim of determining the fundamental orientation which will enable us to achieve, diligently and unfailingly, all the important and urgent tasks entrusted to all the officials charged with the normal and regular working of the newly decentralized revolutionary structures of our party and revolutionary state.

Comrades and members of the Central Committee, before we start our extensive and fruitful debate, we deem it necessary to make some remarks on certain items on our agenda. In fact, on the broadening of the party's base, we will remind you that this point to be debated touches on a particular aspect of the matter, in view of the criteria for admission into the party. Some patriotic cadres have requested to join the party following our militant call to them during our meeting with them in October 1979.

Concerning the reelection of members of provincial provisional secretariats of the party, we want to draw your attention to the fact that the matter has been extensively discussed at the third session of the Central Committee.

In any case party members must be morally and intellectually honest, politically and ideologically committed, competent, devoted and capable of discharging their duty correctly and diligently, in a spirit of sacrifice and abnegation.

Concerning the Beninese communities abroad, our party and revolutionary state will simply make them aware of their invaluable role in the harmonious and integral development of their host countries, without however being cut off from the Beninese way of life, that is, to keep to their identity and their authenticity.

On these words, we officially declare open the special session of our vanguard party, the PRPB. Immortal glory to the PRPB, glory to the martyrs of the Beninese revolution, ready for the revolution and the struggle continues. [end recording]

LIBERIA

DOE RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS FROM JOURNALISTS

AB221858 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1750 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Press conference by head of state M Sgt Samuel K. Doe attended by Liberian and foreign journalists; date and place not specified--intercepted in progress]

[Text] [Question] Could you mention what you think are the most important priorities to Liberia before the second anniversary of the revolution?

[Answer] The most important is the housing facilities for our men and women in arms, the police people and a lot of things that we need to do before the second anniversary, which is to see to it that our people in the rural areas have facilities: houses, food and the rest of it.

[Question] Do you prefer being a head of state or a master sergeant?

[Answer] I prefer being a master sergeant and a head of state. [laughter]

[Question] I gather that the whereabouts of President Tolbert's son is now known. [Words indistinct] and so why is it not known where he is now?

[Answer] Can you tell me the name of person who told you that [A.B. Tolbert] whereabouts is now known? [laughter] We know that A.B. is in confinement.

[Question] Yes, where is he in confinement?

[Answer] Somewhere in our country.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Because of security reasons I cannot tell you.

[Question] Mr Head of State, you have released some political prisoners this week. Do you intend releasing all of the people being held for political reasons?

[Answer] So far by consent [as heard] I think there are no more political prisoners besides A.B. and a few military people.

[Question] Mr Head of State, the minister of justice said on Sunday after you addressed your speech that there were 24 persons still in detention after the announcement of the 19 to be released. Then can we assume that these 24 persons are Mr Tolbert's son and other military people who are being held?

[Answer] Yes.

NIGERIA

MINISTER CALLS FOR FORMING ORGANIZED TRADE UNIONS

AB230844 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] The minister in charge of steel development, Malam Mama Ali Makele, has expressed concern over the industrial unrest and the destruction to property by workers in Ajaokuta. Malam Makele told contractors handling projects in the area that recruitment of non-Nigerian labor would be restricted to those with valid immigration papers. He called for the formation of organized trade unions.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO PRESIDENT CONDEMNS U.S. POLICY ON AFRICA

LD191010 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0853 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 19 Apr (ADN)--Under the leadership of SWAPO, the Namibian people will increase their armed struggle for independence as this is the only way to eliminate the power of imperialism and neocolonialism and the exploitation of the people of Namibia. This was confirmed by SWAPO President Sam Nujoma in a weekend interview with ADN.

Nujoma, who is leading the SWAPO delegation to the Namibia conference held by the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau in Algiers, condemned the policy of the new U.S. administration toward Africa, and particularly toward Namibia. This policy, he said, was not aimed at the decolonialization of Namibia; rather it is aimed at finding a neocolonial solution and at thwarting the international efforts to carry out the UN resolution on Namibia.

"We condemn this policy of Washington's, because it gives the racist regime in South Africa a guarantee and a justification for future aggressive actions against Namibia," the SWAPO president stressed.

Nujoma praised the solidarity of the socialist countries, including the GDR, toward the liberation struggle of the Namibian people. He referred to the close relations which exist between SWAPO and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany on the basis of the friendship treaty signed by both sides. Particularly important for Namibia was the GDR support in the field of education and in the training of Namibian cadres in the GDR.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA SAYS ZIMBABWE ON 'ROAD TO DESTRUCTION'

LD222148 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says Zimbabwe is on the road to destruction unless the government of that country mends its ways. Speaking at Pietermaritzburg in Natal, he said that Marxism and communism were destroying Mozambique and Angola. Now, Zimbabwe's turn had come and what Mr Botha termed the forces of chaos had succeeded in overthrowing a stable government. He said businessmen and industrialists were having serious doubts about Zimbabwe's future.

DTA PRESIDENT REJECTS UN SUPERVISION OF ELECTIONS

LD222214 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The president of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance [DTA], Mr Peter Kalangula, has rejected United Nations' supervision of elections in South-West Africa. He said at the United Nations in New York that an alternative system would have to be found if the UN plan for the territory's independence was to be implemented. The Security Council earlier refused to allow Dr Kalangula to address its debate on South-West Africa, although he was backed by three Western permanent members--the United States, Britain and France. Mr Kalangula said he'd been very surprised by the council's vote of nine to six that blocked the West's attempt to give him the floor. He said he thought that it was a golden opportunity for the United Nations to demonstrate its impartiality. He said the United Nations Security Council action had made implementation of the UN plan much more difficult.

Mr Kalangula said the alliance would continue to explore the possibility of having an election supervised by people or countries that they considered competent. He suggested that governments which support the Western request--Ireland, Japan and Spain--could be considered.

The chairman of the South-West African ministers' council and chairman of the DTA, Mr Mudge, says the alliance appreciates the support of six countries for its request to be allowed to address the United Nations Security Council during its present session. However, the council's refusal to allow the DTA a hearing serves as disqualification for the council to act as an impartial arbiter in any democratic process in South-West Africa. Mr Mudge said in a statement issued in Windhoek that it was now up to the Western countries to put forward an acceptable alternative. The DTA would, however, only consider such an alternative when it had been provided with full particulars.

DTA OFFICIAL SAYS UN DEBATE INAPPROPRIATE

LD221318 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The vice president of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Dr Ben Africa, says the timing of the Security Council debate on South-West Africa is inappropriate. Speaking to newsmen in Windhoek, he said the meeting was inappropriate while the American assistant secretary of state-designate, Dr Chester Crocker, was briefing the Western contact group on the territory after his African tour. Dr Africa said he had expected that consideration would first have to be given to what Dr Crocker had to say.

Dr Crocker is in London where he is briefing government officials from five Western nations on the new American settlement initiative on South-West Africa and on his 2-week tour of 11 African countries. The London meeting is trying to assess whether the deadlocked talks on the independence of South-West Africa can be reopened.

DUSK-TO-DAWN CURFEW IMPOSED IN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA

LD222149 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] The Kavango administration in South-West Africa has imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Mupini in the west to the (?Ovambo) border. The administration says in a statement that the security forces are engaged in follow-up operations against SWAPO terrorists and the movement of local people at night is hindering these operations. The curfew is effective from tonight and means that no roads in the region may be used between 6 in the evening and 6 in the morning. In cases of emergency, special arrangements can be made with the nearest military camp.